

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on

Thursday, the July 18, 2002/Asadha 27, 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

Report of Ravindra Varma Commission

*61. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission headed by Ravindra Varma, constituted to review the entire gamut of labour laws and suggest changes in tune with the liberalisation of economy, has submitted its Report to Government;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations made by the Commission;

(c) whether any study group was also set up by the Commission for social security system before lay-offs as reported in 'The Hindustan Times', dated the 29th June, 2002; and

(d) if so, what relief measures Government propose to give to thousands of unemployed/workers likely to be retrenched on account of its reportedly "Hire-and fire policies"?

Agreement between India and Nepal

†*62. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the talks held and the political and trade agreements reached between India and Nepal during the recent visit of the King of Nepal to India;

(b) whether Nepal has made a demand to remove duty on some sensitive items; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Investment in Tata Tele Services by VSNL

*63. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government-Tata row over Rs. 1,200 crore investment by VSNL funds into Tata Tele Services Ltd. has come to an end;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons and basis for the controversy;

(c) the details of the agreement or settlement arrived at; and

(d) the benefits expected to accrue to Government and the public by the revised proposal?

Payments to cane growers by Sugar mills in U.P.

*64. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh are not making full payment to cane growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Talks between India and China on boundary dispute

*65. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether expert Group of India and China have begun talks on clarification of the Line of Actual Control in Western Sector of Indo-China boundary;

(b) if so, by when these talks are likely to be completed; and

(c) the details of the progress made in the various rounds of talks held in the past?

Unused telecommunication licenses

*66. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that 48 new licenses issued by Government in telecommunication are lying unused;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in using these licenses and rectifying the hindrances;

(d) whether any action has been taken against the private operators for not using the licenses;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Laying of express highway in Vishakhapatnam

*67. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to de-congest traffic in the city of Vishakhapatnam the National Highways Authority has decided to lay an express highway from Convent junction to Ayyappa Temple junction;

(b) if so, the cost thereof;

(c) whether more express ways are also proposed to be laid there; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

Cancellation of Bisleri's license

*68. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

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-item captioned "Bisleri to get back license in a week" appearing in the Economic Times, New Delhi dated the 20th June, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and details of the case relating to the cancellation of licence of Bisleri by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS); and

(c) whether the experts from the BIS and other agencies would certify and undertake the quality of water of Bisleri plant before granting/renewing its licence and if not, the reasons therefor?

Purchase of IT products

*69. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Audit has objected to adhoc purchase of Information Technology products and flouting of purchase rules;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action proposed against those responsible for purchase favouring a single party despite inflated prices quoted by it which was much higher than DGS&D rates and market prices?

Hardships to common people in passport offices

†*70. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that common people are facing many hardships in passport offices of the country;

(b) if so, whether C.B.I. has filed chargesheet against 14 touts operating in the passport offices in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the measures being proposed by Government to keep a check on such activities?

Increase in telephone connections

*71. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there would be a 300 per cent increase over the existing 43 million telephone connections by the year 2006 to 1.28 billion telephones;

(b) whether 75 per cent of the connections would depend on the cables while the balance would be through wireless technology; and

(c) if so, Government's plans to cater to this phenomenal growth?

Joint patrolling in Jammu and Kashmir

*72. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US Government offered any proposal for joint patrolling in the Jammu and Kashmir against the Al-Qaida;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any US proposal is pending with Government for joint activity to combat terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

US efforts to cut through Indo-Pak war

*73. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Government has been trying hard to cut through Indo-Pak war;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether USA is already in contact with the U.K., France and even Secretary General, UNO and China;

(c) if so, to what extent USA has taken steps to break the deadlock;

(d) whether they have made it clear that until and unless Pakistan stops border crossing and infiltration in practice the tension would continue; and

(e) to what extent USA has been able to reduce tension between India and Pakistan, so far?

Mori International survey

*74. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the findings of the survey conducted in Kashmir by the Mori International, one of the largest media organisation in the United Kingdom;

(b) if so, the findings of the survey; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Joint patrolling on Line of Control

*75. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has made a statement at the recent Almaty Summit that the Government of India was in favour of joint patrolling by India and Pakistan on the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir to monitor the flow of cross border infiltration of terrorists;

(b) whether the Minister of Defence has stated that such joint patrolling is not feasible; and

(c) if so, Government's final stand in this regard?

Bottled water plants

*76. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

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

(a) the number of licenced bottled water plants in the country, State-wise together with their bottling capacity;

(b) whether it is a fact that bottled water of a sizeable percentage happens to be of substandard quality; and

(c) if so, the names of such companies and their brands, which have been found supplying sub-standard bottled water?

Ambulance services for animals in distress

*77. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a scheme for provision of ambulance services to animals in distress;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise number of ambulances sanctioned and provided during the last three years indicating the agency to which those were provided?

Construction of super highway connecting ten major ports

*78. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a super highway, connecting ten major ports in the country, has been under construction; and

(b) if so, what are the ports, the length of the super highway, the project cost and by when it is expected to be completed?

Investment in TATA Tele Services

*79. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the VSNL had taken decision to make an investment of Rs. 1200 crores in the TATA Tele Services in its Board meeting;

(b) if so, whether this amount is more than the amount paid by the TATA Group to secure control of the VSNL;

(c) if so, whether this approach is in keeping with the objective with which Government argued to the disinvestment of its ownership and Management of VSNL;

(d) if so, the facts of the transfer agreement which substantiate Government's argument; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

VSNL's stake in submarine cable linking

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

(a) whether VSNL has substantial stake in the 28000 Kilometre long submarine cable linking 15 countries which has since been commissioned;

(b) the amount invested by the VSNL in the project and the cost of the project;

(c) the countries which are parties to the project; and

(d) the benefits that would accrue to the country as a result of commissioning of the above project?

NEW DELHI;
The 12th July, 2002

Asadha 21, 1924 (Saka)

R. C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	:	—
Agro and Rural Industries	:	—
Atomic Energy	:	—
Communications and Information Technology	:	63, 66, 71, 79, 80,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	64, 68, 76,
External Affairs	:	62, 65, 70, 72, 73, 74, 75,
Labour	:	61,
Parliamentary Affairs	:	—
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	:	—
Planning	:	—
Road Transport and Highways	:	67, 69, 78,
Small Scale Industries	:	—
Space	:	—
Statistics and Programme Implementation	:	77.