

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Thursday, the December 18, 2003/Agrahayana 27, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;  
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food and  
Public Distribution, Development of North Eastern Region; Disinvestment;  
External Affairs; Labour; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Small  
Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—20

#### Domestic telephone rates

†\*241. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the domestic telephone rate is higher than the mobile phone rate;
- (b) if so, by what percentage and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the percentage of persons using mobile phones in the country?

#### Highways linking Tripura with NE States

\*242. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the national highways in respect of which work has already been undertaken or is proposed to be undertaken shortly by the Central Government in the North-Eastern States;
- (b) the names of those highways which link Tripura with other States in the North Eastern Region; and

(c) the status of these works, particularly the highway linking Tripura and Mizoram?

#### Procurement of rice from Orissa

\*243. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken steps to procure rice from various States;
- (b) the target of procurement set for the year 2003-04, State-wise; and
- (c) the quantum of rice proposed to be procured from Orissa?

#### New licence regime

\*244. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether by introducing 'unified licence' Government are migrating to a new licence regime;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government are working out a minimum reserve price for the licenses based on valuation of spectrum; and

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

#### **Growth in computer hardware exports**

\*245. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that computer software services registered a growth of 38 per cent during the first half of the current financial year;

(b) if so, what is the growth rate of hardware exports;

(c) what are the targets fixed for the current financial year; and

(d) whether the targets are likely to be achieved by the year end at the present trend?

#### **Foodgrain export policy**

\*246. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:  
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:

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

(a) whether Government are seriously considering to make export of foodgrains a "completely market-driven activity" by facilitating its export by private sector;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) whether Mid-Year Review of Economy released on November 14 the need to establish India as a reliable supplier in global grain market has been indicated; if

so, the steps government are taking to enunciate stable export policy for foodgrains?

#### **Troops to Iraq**

\*247. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of the U.S.A. has been pressurising Government of India to send troops to Iraq despite the unanimous stand taken in, and expressed through a resolution adopted in Parliament;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether India has also clarified her general stand that she stands committed to encourage peace in the Middle East based on the right of self-rule by the Iraqis and if so, the reaction of U.S. Government thereto; and

(d) whether Government have announced this in the appropriate forum of the United Nations and if so, details thereof?

#### **FCI godowns in Southern States**

\*248. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FCI godowns in southern States, with their storage capacity, State-wise;

(b) whether these godowns are rodent and damp proof;

(c) if not, the number of godowns required to be made rodent and damp proof, State-wise; and

(d) what corrective measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

(c) the categories of officers and employees whose payments have been increased?

#### **Indo-EU relations**

\*249. PROF. ALKA BALRAM

KASHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-European Union relations are touching a new high following the India-EU Summit which was held in November, 2003;

(b) if so, the main topics discussed thereat;

(c) the main agreements reached between the two;

(d) whether the EU has, recently, upgraded its mission in India with a Grade II Ambassador; and

(e) if so, to what extent both the countries have improved their relations?

#### **Salary in industrial and business institutions**

†\*250. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the salary in the industrial and business institutions in India have been increased as compared to other countries in the Asia-Pacific Region during the year 2003;

(b) if so, the rate of growth in the amount of salary payments and the names of such industries and business where salaries have been increased; and

#### **Financial assistance for roads**

\*251. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Central Government had stopped financial assistance to several States for road construction and maintenances for not adhering to the loading norms for goods transport vehicles;

(b) if so, the names of States to whom assistance has been stopped;

(c) the reaction of these States; and

(d) by when the assistance is likely to be restored?

#### **Payments to sugarcane farmers**

\*252. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has urged the State Chief Ministers to speed up payments to farmers before the next sugar season begins in October;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to have second sugarcane package for the non-SAP States in addition to Rs. 609 crore assistance announced earlier in July 2003;

(c) whether Government have made it clear that Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Punjab still have the option of fixing the cane prices as they have not yet accepted the package doled out by the Centre; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) to what extent it has been helpful to the cane growers in these States?

#### **Four-laning of NH-48 and NH-17**

\*253. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Karnataka has proposed four-laning of 320 Kms and 300 Kms long National Highway Nos. 48 and 17 from Nelamangala to Mangalore and Panaji-Mangalore to Kochi respectively; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Centre's reaction thereto?

#### **Attack on Indian consulate in Kabul**

\*254. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian National has, recently, been killed in attack on Indian consulate in Kabul;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate arrangements have been made for the security of the Indian Nationals and personnel of the Indian Embassy at Kabul; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Companies supplying bottled water**

†\*255. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies in the

country engaged in supplying bottled water;

(b) the number of companies out of them which do not possess I.S.I. Certification;

(c) the grounds on which such companies are engaged in the business of selling bottled water;

(d) whether Government would prescribe standards for bottled water keeping in view the health of the public; and

(e) if so, by when and the reasons for delay for putting the same in place?

#### **National Highways in Madhya Pradesh**

\*256. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for repairing of National Highway in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the allocation of fund for the same, District-wise; and

(c) by when, the same is likely to be sanctioned for the purpose?

#### **Quality of internet services**

\*257. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) have conducted nation-wide surveys on the quality of service of the Internet Service Providers (ISPs);

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

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sOriginal notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether according to the surveys, ISPs like SIFY, Dishnet, HCL and VSNL are not meeting the required quality benchmarks; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take against these companies?

**Invitation from Mauritius for investment**

\*258. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mauritius has invited Indian Companies to invest in that country and use it as a base for trade with Africa, America and European Union;

(b) whether Mauritius also expects support from India in the form of technical assistance and investment for its IT Industry;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet their demand?

**Labour unrest in tea gardens of Assam**

\*259. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the labour unrest in tea gardens of Assam on 20 per cent bonus issue;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps Government have taken in the matter?

**Wage disparity**

†\*260. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that equal pay is not given for equal work to the female workers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the persons contravening the law of equal pay for equal work;

(d) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;  
The 12th December, 2003  
Agrahayana 21, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
Secretary-General.

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sOriginal notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

<b>Prime Minister</b>	: —
<b>Agro and Rural Industries</b>	: —
<b>Atomic Energy</b>	: —
<b>Communications and Information Technology</b>	: 241, 244, 245, 257,
<b>Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>	: 243, 246, 248, 252, 255,
<b>Development of North Eastern Region</b>	: —
<b>Disinvestment</b>	: —
<b>External Affairs</b>	: 247, 249, 254, 258,
<b>Labour</b>	: 250, 259, 260,
<b>Planning</b>	: —
<b>Road Transport and Highways</b>	: 242, 251, 253, 256.
<b>Small Scale Industries</b>	: —
<b>Space</b>	: —
<b>Statistics and Programme Implementation</b>	: —