

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 19, 2002/Agrahayana 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

Collection of dues from Dolphin Consumers

*421. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MTNL's mobile service Dolphin consumers owe more than Rs. 10 crores to MTNL;

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

(c) what steps are being taken to ensure regular collection of charges from the consumers?

Interconnect tangle between BSNL and VSNL

*422. SHRI ARJUN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the interconnect tangle between Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has been finally closed;

(b) whether all the outstanding issues in this regard have been settled; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to function?

Funds to Rajasthan under Central Road Fund

*423. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned to Rajasthan under the Central Road Fund (CRF), so far;

(b) the details of the works sanctioned from the fund during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, so far;

(c) whether Government are considering to fix a time limit for approval of the proposals and to delegate certain powers of approval to a Committee on the lines of the Border Area Development Programme and PMGY; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

Changes in licensing agreement

*424. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have changed the clauses of the licensing agreement signed with private cellular players;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) who are the beneficiaries from the private sector?

Youth Employment Summit

*425. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any global conference of the Youth Employment Summit is proposed to be held in India in 2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Housing scheme for EPF subscribers

*426. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 303 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 2002 and state:

(a) what are the terms of reference of the Committee set up to examine feasibility of the housing scheme for the Members of the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) the amount provided as housing loan during the last two financial years; and

(c) the manner in which the new scheme is different from the existing scheme?

Cellular telephones

†*427. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in the country without the cellular telephone services;

(b) whether the benefits of cellular telephone services are to be extended to these districts; and

(c) if so, by when?

Non-remittance of Provident Fund contribution

*428. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number as well as the names of the employers and companies that have defaulted in remitting the provident fund contribution to EPF during the last two years;

(b) the action taken to realise the arrears;

(c) what action has been taken against those defaulting employers and companies;

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Kai Sal Se P.F. Ki Rakam Jama Nahin Karai" appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated the 30th June, 2002; and

(e) if so, the action taken in the matter?

Apprehensions on cross-border terrorism by Pakistan

*429. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are appre-

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.-

hensive of more cross border terrorism with the formation of new elected Government in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government have conveyed their apprehensions to the major powers and friendly countries besides UNO at appropriate diplomatic levels

(c) if so, what have been their response;

(d) whether new Government in Pakistan has written anything on bilateral relations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Mobile telephony

*430. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in the country connected with Mobile Telephony by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of districts still to be connected by Mobile Telephony in Orissa; and

(c) by when all the districts in the country are likely to be connected by Mobile Telephony?

Norms for procurement of foodgrains

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

(a) whether Government have formulated any norms for procurement of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have received any request from the Government of Punjab to revise the procurement norms?

BPL level

*432. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of people living Below Poverty Line (BPL) level in the country;

(b) whether this BPL would slide down to 19.17 per cent in 2007 as reported in the 'Financial Express' dated the 19th August, 2002;

(c) the States which have the lowest and the highest BPL level;

(d) whether it is a fact that Orissa is stated to have 41.07 per cent of BPL level; and

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take to bring down BPL level in the State in order to bridge the gap with other affluent States?

Trade curbs on SAARC Members

*433. SHRI RUMANDLA
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been urged to lift trade curbs on SAARC Members;

(b) if so, whether the Executive Director of the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACFPS) has pointed out that India would also benefit from the exercise, since the economic expansion would increase the demand for the Indian goods as well;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Appointment of ESI Doctors

*434. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recruitment rules in respect of appointment of medical officers for ESI hospitals are proposed to be radically modified;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and whether the proposal runs counter to the established norms of recruitment to Government/autonomous agencies;

(c) whether prior approval of Government was obtained for the proposed modification; and

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

Action against officers

†*435. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in recent years a list of 2427 officials was prepared by the Central Vigilance Commission who were accused of corruption charges; and

(b) the number of persons out of them against whom cases have been initiated so far in the court of law?

National Highways in Bihar

†*436. SHRI LALU PRASAD:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the State of Bihar has sent a proposal of improving the condition of

1200 kms. of roads out of the new roads declared recently as National Highways;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Ministry to upgrade the same; and

(c) by when this work would be completed?

Arrears of sugarcane growers

†*437. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 64 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th July, 2002 and state:

(a) by when the arrears of farmers would be paid to them by sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the names of the sugar mills which are yet to pay more than 25 per cent of arrears alongwith the names of the mills which have been issued with show cause notice;

(c) whether Government would take special measures to ensure payment of arrears to the farmers, keeping in view the existing drought situation; and

(d) if so, by when?

Rice procurement in Assam

*438. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the support price fixed for procurement of rice and other commodities during the last three years, up-to November, 2002, indicating the agency entrusted for such purchase, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the reasons for which FCI was not entrusted to make the direct procurement in Assam as done in some other States;

(c) whether Government propose to make rice procurement in Assam only through FCI in the current financial year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in wages of workers

*439. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the daily wage workers engaged in the offices, where five-days a week working system is prevailing, are in great distress due to non-increase of their wages since a long time while the wages of the workers engaged in the offices with a

six days a week system have already been increased;

(b) if so, by when their wages would be increased;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) when their wages were last increased?

Regularisation of Hindi officers

*440. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL/BSNL has not yet regularised the Hindi Officers working for the last ten to twelve years; and

(b) when the cadre of Hindi Officers was reviewed last, so that only departmental candidates are posted as Directors?

NEW DELHI;
The 13th December, 2002
Agrahayana 22, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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