

RAJYASABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the December 19, 2003/Agrahayana 28, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and Forests;
Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development; Ocean
Development; Railways; Science and Technology; Steel;
Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions — 20

Floating of global tenders by Railways

*261. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have ignored the claims of the Ranchi-based Heavy Engineering Corporation while awarding works as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Railways have been floating global tenders for many of the important works and ignoring the indigenous companies; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

Ecological parks in Gujarat

*262. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any ecological parks in the country particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details and main features thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up more ecological parks in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Report of CRS on fire in Frontier Mail

*263. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-
CHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the probe conducted by the Commissioner of Railway Safety into the devastating fire in the Frontier Mail on 15th May, 2003 which claimed 36 lives, has blamed the negligence of train staff for the mishap;

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

(c) what action has been taken against the concerned staff ?

Newspapers supplied to passengers

*264. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2090 given in Rajya Sabha on 3rd July, 1998 and state the details with names of the newspapers being supplied to the passengers in each Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains on all Indian Railways at present?

Wildlife trade

*265. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Delhi-based NGO, Wildlife Trust of India, conducted a study into wildlife trade in 2002 in Uttaranchal and U.P.; if so, what were its findings; and

(b) whether Government are thinking of having dialogue with Chinese and Nepalese Governments in this regard so that wildlife conservation is effectively taken care of?

Dereserved forest areas

*266. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government to allot periodic Deeds to the occupants in the dereserved forest areas of Assam;

(b) whether Government have decided to issue periodical pattas to the occupants in dereserved land of a thousand bighas in Rangali Forest Reserve and sixteen thousand bighas in Panidihing Forest Reserve of Sivasagar district of Assam;

(c) if so, what is the time-frame; and

(d) whether Government have any policy to convert forest villages into revenue villages in near future?

Collaboration in scientific and technological fields

*267. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement between India and Italy has been entered into to pave the way for enhancement of collaboration in scientific and technological fields;

(b) whether Government are also thinking of networking of scientific research laboratories and academia from both India and Italy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Buffer zone of Silent Valley National Park

*268. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of reports on the buffer zone of Silent Valley National Park, relating to destruction of the area by the ganja mafia and the "Kakkivana forgery";

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether there is any failure on the part of the authorities in conducting the cases properly; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to protect the buffer zone of Silent Valley National Park?

Equity of IFFCO

†*269. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative) is considering to return Government equity; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum of Government equity?

Implementation of famine code

*270. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prevailed upon the States to follow the accepted norms and guidelines for tackling the drought situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the States which have formulated and executed famine code?

Export of steel

*271. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of steel has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the export quantity;

(c) what steps have been taken to increase it further;

(d) whether it is a fact that U.S.A. has repealed the tariffs on imported steel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Similipal Tiger Reserve

*272. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many families are yet to be shifted out from inside the designated core area of the Similipal Tiger Reserve and how many families have already been shifted out;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Wild Dogs, Cuon Alpinus, are slowly becoming extinct in the Similipal forests; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Pending rail projects in NER

*273. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new, ongoing projects including survey projects and pending rail projects in the North-East Region, project-wise;

(b) the time schedule for completion of these projects; and

(c) the measures taken by Government in this regard?

List of drugs sold at higher prices

†*274. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that patients have to pay several hundred times more than the actual cost of the common drugs; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the names of the drugs which are being sold at the cost more than hundred per cent of actual costs by the sellers?

Crop estimates

*275. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) latest estimate of production of major agricultural commodities during the current year 2003-04;

(b) actual production during the preceding year;

(c) what are the reasons for the rise/fall; and

(d) whether there is a rise in per capita availability of foodgrains, considering the mid-year estimate of population, as compared to last year?

Setting up of Indian Institute of Social Sciences

*276. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to set up Indian Institute of Social Sciences on the same standards as the IITs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the teaching in universities is far below the world standards; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the budgetary allocation for existing

institutes of social sciences during the last five years in comparison with S&T ?

Railway crossings on National Highways

*277. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA:
PROF. M. M. AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway crossings in different parts of the country on National Highways, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have taken any measure to build under/over bridges on these Highways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Incorrect addresses on call letters

†*278. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the candidates qualifying Kolkata Railway examination have been deprived of jobs due to carelessness of the Railway Recruitment Board as the call letters sent to them did not bear the correct addresses;

(b) whether the candidates would be recalled after sorting the incomplete addresses on all the call letters lying in the post offices;

(c) whether he is contemplating to conduct an inquiry against the persons responsible for this negligence;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Gauge conversion of Dangori-Saikhuwa Section

*279. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the implementation status of Bogibeel bridge project including construction of protection dyke, approach and service road, sector-wise;

(b) commission schedule envisaged and budgetary provisions made, sector-wise;

(c) whether Ministry is considering the gauge conversion of Dangori-Saikhuwa Section of N.F. Railway in Tinsukia district of Assam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Law to protect traditional knowledge and thought

*280. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to enact a *sui generis* law to protect its traditional knowledge and thought;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be put in place?

NEW DELHI;
The 13th December, 2003

Agrahayana 22, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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