

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the February 20, 2003/Phalguna 1, 1924 (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

Simplification of extradition laws

*41. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH
LIBRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts Government have made with other countries to simplify extradition laws; and

(b) the progress made in this regard, so far?

Tenth Five Year Plan

†*42. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the recent discussions on the Tenth Five Year Plan representatives of several State Governments have expressed their inability to achieve the targets set for plan period;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) the reasons for expressing their inability to achieve the targets; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that due to the inability of the State Governments it would be impossible to achieve the targets set to remove unemployment and to eliminate poverty?

Buffer stock of sugar

*43. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that differences are getting sharper between sugar mills in the co-operative and private sectors over modalities for allocation of the recently announced buffer stock of 20 lakh tonne;

(b) if so, what are the main differences;

(c) whether Government have considered views of all the sugar mills; and

(d) if so, to what extent Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

have compromised and satisfied the sugar mills for issue of buffer stock allocation?

**Electronic telephone exchanges
in H.P.**

*44. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the electronic telephone exchanges set up in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the details of the funds earmarked/dispensed/utilised, so far, for the said purpose during this period; and

(c) the details of the plan formulated for setting up of more electronic telephone exchanges in the State during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

**Disinvestment of National Fertilizers
Limited**

*45. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that overall performance of the National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) is very impressive and its net profit after tax deduction during the last fiscal year has been registered at Rs. 40.61 crores against Rs. 27.31 crores in 2000-2001;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto alongwith the reasons for the decision to divest 51 per cent of its equity;

(c) whether Government have any plan to review the decision of disinvestment of NFL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Transport corridor to Afghanistan
through Iran**

*46. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state what has been the action taken to develop a transport corridor from India to Afghanistan and Central Asia through Iran in view of Pakistan denying facilities for overland trade between India and Afghanistan?

**Invitation to NRIs for Pravasi
Bharatiya Diwas**

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

(a) the number of NRIs who were issued invitation by Government for first meeting of "PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIWAS" held on the 9th January, 2003 in New Delhi;

(b) the number of NRIs who actually attended the meeting;

(c) whether such meeting of the NRIs would be called every year in future;

(d) whether a permanent Organisation of NRIs has been set up in Delhi under the auspices of Government; and

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

**Self-sufficiency in launching heavier
satellites**

*48. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have achieved self-sufficiency in launching heavier satellites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the National Science Congress is being held in Bangalore and Government have already outlined the steps to be taken for moving towards commercialization of the space operations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Rise in telephone rental

*49. SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the rental, call tariff, etc., in respect of fixed telephone lines have been increased steeply; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this revision has been made to favour the cellular and private WILL operators, patronised by the business and upper segments of the society;

(c) whether there is a lot of resentment among the subscribers of the fixed telephone lines;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to revert to the old tariff and rental; and

(e) if not, the justification therefor?

Row between TRAI and private cell-phone companies

*50. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether there has been war between the Telecom Regulatory Authority and private cellphone companies which has virtually crippled functioning of cellphones in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the TRAI issued a show cause notice to mobile service operators for defying the directive issued on the provision of inter-connection facilities to telecom operators providing limited mobility;

(d) if so, whether he had to intervene in settling this issue; and

(e) if so, to what extent the problem has been solved?

Setting up of a nuclear power plant in A.P.

*51. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nagarjuna Sagar and Kovvada in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh were identified as possible sites for establishing nuclear power station for generating nuclear power for the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government propose to establish nuclear power station in the State?

Beneficiaries of PMRY

*52. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to promote the concept of self employment among the

youth, Government have launched a scheme called Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the details of the beneficiaries under the scheme in the last three years, State-wise;

(c) what has been the target fixed for Andhra Pradesh during the said period and what have been the achievements, district-wise; and

(d) what steps Government are contemplating to make the scheme effective?

Harassment of Indian Charge d'Affairs by Pakistan

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

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lodged an official protest against the intimidation and harassment of Indian Charge d'affairs by Pakistani intelligence officials in Islamabad on the 18th January, 2003;

(b) if so, whether earlier also, Indian Charge d'affairs was treated badly in Islamabad;

(c) whether Pakistan also deported Indian Embassy staff after India expelled Pakistan High Commission's four officials who were given 48 hours to leave the country;

(d) if so, whether Pakistan, on number of occasions, has been violating the International Law on this issue; and

(e) the steps Government contemplate to take in this regard?

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

*54. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to enlarge the ambit of the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), which is intended to provide foodgrains to the poor at highly subsidised rates, with a view to covering a larger number of poor with food security;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of additional families likely to be covered under the revised scheme; and

(c) the details of offtake of foodgrains under the scheme by the various States, State-wise, since its inception two years ago?

Internet virus

*55. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Internet worm may cause Rs. 300 crore loss to IT Trade" as reported in the Hindu dated the 27th January, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the virus in Inter- net Services has caused losses to Government to the tune of crores of rupees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the VSNL has taken any steps to control the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Military agreement between
Bangladesh and China**

*56. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new military agreement has, recently, been signed between Bangladesh and China in Beijing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the agreement is likely to alter the existing balance of power in the Indian Sub-continent; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard India's position in the South Eastern Region in the overall interest of peace in the Asian continent?

**Disinvestment of profit making
companies**

†*57. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are allowing disinvestment only in such companies which are running in profit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

Exploration of mineral sand

*58. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start a project in public sector for exploration of mineral sand of Chavara in Kerala by combining IRE, National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and KSIDC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether shares of NMDC and IRE have been offered to overseas partners as part of privatisation;

(d) whether strategic mineral deposit containing "Thorium" would slip to undesirable hands in future, if NMDC and IRE are privatised; and

(e) how a project producing 'Synthetic rutile' could be started in public sector when NMDC and IRE are under privatisation?

**Closing down of Telephone
Organisations**

†*59. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close all Government telephone organisations including MTNL and BSNL, if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the justification for making domestic telephone, being used by rural and middle and lower class people costlier and mobile phones cheaper; and

(b) whether Government are considering to withdraw the increase in rates of domestic phones, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Child labour in Andhra Pradesh

*60. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are over 1.5 lakh child labourers languishing in slavery in different parts of Kurnool District in Andhra Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(b) if so, whether the district administration has set upon the task of identifying and rehabilitating child workers slogging in cement quarries, cotton grading units, etc.;</p> <p>(c) whether any raids were conducted;</p> | <p>(d) if so, the number of children captured during these raids; and</p> <p>(e) what are the steps being taken by the Government to rehabilitate them?</p> |
|---|---|

NEW DELHI;
The 14th February, 2003
Magha 25, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: 52,
Atomic Energy	: 51, 58,
Communications and Information Technology	: 44, 49, 50, 55, 59,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 43, 54,
Development of North Eastern Region	: —
Disinvestment	: 45, 57,
External Affairs /	: 41, 46, 47, 53, 56,
Labour	: 60,
Planning	: 42,
Road Transport and Highways	: —
Small Scale Industries	: —
Space	: 48.
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —