

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the March 21, 2002 / Phalgun 30, 1923 (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

**Dr. M.S. Swaminathan's
recommendations on agricultural
sector**

*261. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural scientist, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has come out with a report containing far reaching recommendations for achieving high growth in agriculture and making the farm produce competitive;

(b) whether the recommended agricultural reforms envisage massive investment in the agricultural sector by both the public and private sectors; and

(c) if so, the details of these recommendations and Government's policy thereon?

Prime Minister's Japan visit

*262. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister's visit to Japan has been successful;

(b) if so, whether Japan has agreed to provide aid that was stopped due to the Pokhran test;

(c) to what extent Japanese investment in India would increase; and

(d) if so, to what extent these agreements would help?

**Amendment to Industrial Disputes
Act, 1947**

*263. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report captioned "Central labours to make lay-offs easy" which appeared in the 'Newstime' dated the 23rd February, 2002; and

(b) the safeguards taken/proposed to be taken to protect interests of labour before amending the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 to lay off employees without Government's permission?

Ban on duplicate brands of goods

†*264. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the companies making consumer goods are demanding for a special ban to check the duplicate brands of the goods;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the present laws are not effective; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

Council for Clean India

*265. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission has formed a Council for Clean India (CFCI);

(b) if so, what is its composition and objectives;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is coming up with a new measurable index for Government organisations called as "Corruption Permission Index"; and

(d) if so, the definition of the Index?

Use of IT in SSI sector

*266. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Small Scale Industry is much backward so far as application of Information Technology is concerned;

(b) whether the SSI is lacking in productivity, cost control and competitiveness in the absence of Information Technology;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give incentives to the SSI with a view to help them in inducting Information Technology; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken/ being taken by Government in this regard?

Uniform sugarcane price

*267. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not having uniform sugarcane price all over the country as sugarcane itself is a major cost input in manufacturing sugar; and

(b) if not, the administrative difficulties in doing so?

FBI Director's Delhi visit

*268. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following the Home Minister's US visit, the Director Investigation of the Federal Bureau of Investigations of the US, Mr. Robert Mueller visited New Delhi;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the nature and extent of cooperation to fight terrorism expected to be extended by the FBI?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Allotment of rice at BPL rates

*269. DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allot five kg. rice per head per month at BPL rates in addition to the States BPL Quota to destitute children, schools for physically handicapped, old age houses and other related institutions sponsored by the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to allocate 6000 MT rice at the BPL rates; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

Foodgrain stocks

*270. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the buffer stock position of foodgrains at the end of 2001 and procurement target during 2002;

(b) the estimated loss of foodgrains during 2001 in comparison to the loss during 1999;

(c) whether Government have considered the possibility of the existing food security system to manage storage of foodgrains in the warehouses;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any change in the procurement and distribution policy is contemplated by Government to minimise

the annual losses of foodgrains; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

International support to Pakistan on Kashmir issue

*271. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the fact that on January 4th, 2002, when Pakistan's spokesperson announced from Kathmandu that struggle of Kashmiris for implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, recognizing right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir for self determination, was their indigenous movement and could by no stretch of imagination be called terrorism, the British Prime Minister from Bangalore and the U.S. Defence Secretary of State from Washington supported Pak-position as strong; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto to set the international scenario in right perspective?

Financial information on terrorism funding

*272. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently, discussed with USA about sharing financial information to crack down on terrorism funding;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the merits and demerits of such an understanding with USA?

Uniform scam

†*273. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 471 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the enquiry into the entire uniform scam case has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken against the persons found guilty;

(c) if not, the reasons for issuing uniforms to the employees despite having been found to be sub-standard;

(d) whether any permission was obtained from the CBI or the court prior to issuing the sub-standard uniforms; and

(e) if not, what action Government propose to initiate against the persons involved in issuing these uniforms?

National Highway Patrol Force

*274. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider constituting a special National Highway Patrol Force, comprising both of Civil Wing and Law Enforcement Wing under the National Highway Authority of India;

(b) whether Government consider such a step necessary due to increasing lawlessness on National Highways and also to remove blockades caused by accidents/encroachments etc.; and

(c) whether it is also proposed to include para-medical personnel in the Patrol Force to provide first-aid treatment to accident victims?

Cottage industries in rural areas

*275. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce new incentives to encourage setting up of cottage industries in the rural areas for reducing unemployment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Transfer of officers to Unnao

†*276. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR: SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some officers of Mainpuri district were transferred to Unnao;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some officers have refused to join their new duties thereby causing trouble in smooth functioning of communication system there; and

(d) if so, what is the justification for their not joining the new duties and what action is being taken by Government against the officers?

Free of cost Spectrum Management to new operators

*277. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that "Spectrum

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Management" is being provided to new operators free of cost thereby incurring a loss of Rs. 3,000 crores to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are considering to provide voice and low speed data service in the villages by the end of year 2002 and achieve internet access to all the district Headquarters, and if so, the details thereof?

Telecom facility in hilly and tribal areas

*278. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are underway to ensure development of telecom facility in remote hilly and tribal areas; and

(b) the measures for reducing the tariff for making the service affordable for the rural and needy consumers?

Telecom services in Andhra Pradesh

*279. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to provide/improve telecom services in backward, rural and tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

Opposition to labour reforms legislation

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

(a) whether leading trade unions in the country have expressed their opposition to Government's move to labour reforms legislation;

(b) whether they have observed a protest day on 14th March, 2002;

(c) whether they are against the disinvestment of Blue Chip Public Sector undertakings like VSNL; and

(d) if so, what is Government's response thereto?

NEW DELHI;
The 15th March, 2002
Phalgun 24, 1923 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X (Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: 275,
Atomic Energy	: —
Communications and Information Technology	: 273, 276, 277, 278, 279,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 264, 267, 269, 270,
External Affairs	: 262, 268, 271, 272,
Labour	: 263, 280,
Parliamentary Affairs	: —
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	: 265,
Planning	: 261,
Road Transport and Highways	: 274,
Small Scale Industries	: 266.
Space	: —
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —