

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Thursday, the April, 21, 2005/Vaisakha 1, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Coal; Communications and Information Technology; External Affairs; Labour and Employment; Ocean Development; Overseas Indian Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Science and Technology; Shipping, Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions — 20

#### Introduction of MPLADS

\*401. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-  
CHARYA:  
SHRI N.K. PREMA-  
CHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND  
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION  
be pleased to state:

(a) since when the MPLADS has been  
in place;

(b) the purpose for which the scheme  
was introduced;

(c) whether any survey has been made  
to assess the efficacy of the scheme;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### Conversion of LoC into international boundary

\*402. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will  
the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has

been drawn to the claim made by former  
US Assistant Secretary of State Strobe  
Talbot on Indian willingness to convert  
LoC as international boundary with  
Pakistan; and

(b) if so, whether such a proposal was  
considered or conveyed to the US by India  
at any stage?

#### Central Government Health Scheme

†\*403. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:  
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal  
for change in the Central Government  
Health Scheme is under consideration of  
the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the outlines of this proposal;  
and

(c) the details of benefits which are likely  
to be achieved as a result of the  
implementation of this proposal?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Reservation in jobs for muslims**

\*404. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:  
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reserve certain percentage of jobs for the persons belonging to Muslim Community;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what other measures Government propose to take to uplift this community, majority of whose population belong to lower strata of society?

**Cloud seeding technique for artificial rains**

\*405. SHRI B. J. PANDA:  
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some drought-hit States are invoking cloud seeding technique for artificial rains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the action plan of the Centre to help Orissa State to develop this technique; and

(d) the details thereof?

**BSNL's demand against MTNL**

\*406. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has raised a demand of Rs. 1,840 crore against MTNL as part of IUC charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government response thereto?

**KBK districts of Orissa**

†\*407. SHRISURENDRA LATH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the KBK (Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput) districts of Orissa are among the most backward districts of the country;

(b) if so, the amount allocated from the Central fund for their development in the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether any assessment of the progress made in above districts, with the help of this money, has been made; and

(d) if so, the extent of changes that occurred in the situation prior to and after the allocation of funds?

**BSNL and MTNL spendings on advertising and promotional activities**

\*408. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the fund allocated by BSNL and MTNL for marketing of various telecom circles and its utilization during the last three years;

(b) the details of funds used for advertising through Government and private agencies, separately during the last three years with the names of advertising agencies;

(c) the complete details of the funds used for sponsor of national and local events and for promotional activities like organizing parties and distribution of gifts in the last three years, year-wise; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the details of funds allocated and used for passing on benefit to real consumers?

#### **Introduction of local call dialling**

\*409. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to introduce facilities of local call dialling among cities like Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai and States connected with these cities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be introduced in these cities and the respective States?

#### **Implementation of Right to Information Act**

†\*410. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Right to Information Act was passed by Parliament;

(b) since when this Act has been brought into force;

(c) the names of Government departments exempted from providing information under the said Act; and

(d) the details of rules set for obtaining information?

#### **Registered/unregistered unemployed youths**

\*411. SHRIPENUMALLIMADHU: PROF. M. M. AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered and

unregistered, unemployed youths in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number that are added to the unemployed due to the closure of factories;

(c) the measures contemplated, if any, for achieving quantum enhancement in job opportunities; and

(d) the time-frame thereof?

#### **Decrease in mail handled by Postal Department**

\*412. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the advent of computer and telecom networks there has been considerable decrease in volume of mail handled by Postal Department including telegrams;

(b) if so, whether a major part of the infrastructure including manpower built over the years by the Department of Posts has been rendered idle and unproductive; and

(c) the steps being planned to diversify the operations of the Postal Department with its vast network of branches and manpower?

#### **Waiting list of telephone connections in Orissa and Himachal Pradesh**

†\*413. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

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

(a) the number of land line telephone connections installed by public and private companies during the last two years in the States of Himachal Pradesh and Orissa;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the position of waiting list in the two States as on the 31st March, 2005; and

(c) the number of villages connected with telecommunication services through various telecommunicating systems in the two States?

#### **Investment by Overseas Indians**

†\*414. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of overseas Indians who have expressed their intention to make capital investment in the States of the country during current financial year togetherwith the names of the States in which they intend to make investment;

(b) the manner in which Government are encouraging overseas Indians to make capital investment in India; and

(c) the details thereof?

#### **Database on poverty and Unemployment**

\*415. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have no database on poverty and unemployment for the period from 2000;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) in the absence of authentic and variable data on such key areas, in what way projection for various social and infrastructure development are made and implemented; and

(d) in what manner a dependable data base on poverty, unemployment, housing, etc., is proposed to be created?

#### **Constitution of an expert group by TRAI**

\*416. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has constituted an Expert Group to explore the possibility of setting up an exchange to resolve interconnection issues between different operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether broader issues relating to telecommunications will also be addressed by this expert group;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Indian fishermen detained in Pak jails**

\*417. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received representations about the thousands of Indian fishermen languishing in Pakistani jails;

(b) to what extent Government are giving priority to this problem;

(c) whether special officer is being appointed to contact the Government of Pakistan and secure their immediate release;

(d) whether Government are not able to reach an agreement with the Pakistani Government to treat such problems involving fishing boats as a routine matter; and

(e) whether it is proposed to give top priority to this problem of Indian fishermen

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and Indian fishing boats being seized by Pakistan?

**Group 'A' services in BSNL/MTNL**

\*418. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers Telecom as a specialized Department;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure its specialized character after the option of absorption is offered to the specialized Group 'A' services in the BSNL/MTNL;

(c) if not, the steps being taken so that it becomes a specialized department especially in wake of some Telecom operators grossly violating Government license regulations;

(d) whether Government have considered the need of a proper specialized Government monitoring system; and

(e) if so, how Government plans to monitor the huge and burgeoning Telecom network across the country to ensure that security of the country is not jeopardized?

**Running of parallel telephone exchanges**

†\*419. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a number of people are running parallel telephone exchanges in the country which is causing heavy losses of revenue to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the persons found guilty in the inquiry?

**Arrest of Indians in Bangladesh**

\*420. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether nine Indians were arrested in Bangladesh on March 11, 2005 and lodged in Bangla-jails;

(b) if so, the total number of Indians in Bangladesh jails as on April 1, 2005 and on what grounds they have been arrested/imprisoned indicating the charges against them; and

(c) the steps taken so far to secure their release and return to India?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 15th April, 2005*  
*Chaitra 25, 1927 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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†Original 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>Coal</b>	: —
<b>Communications and Information Technology</b>	: 406, 408, 409, 412, 413, 416, 418, 419,
<b>External Affairs</b>	: 402, 417, 420,
<b>Labour and Employment</b>	: 411,
<b>Ocean Development</b>	: —
<b>Overseas Indian Affairs</b>	: 414,
<b>Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</b>	: 404, 410,
<b>Planning</b>	: 403, 407,
<b>Science and Technology</b>	: 405,
<b>Shipping, Road Transport and Highways</b>	: —
<b>Small Scale Industries</b>	: —
<b>Space</b>	: —
<b>Statistics and Programme Implementation</b>	: 401, 415,
<b>Youth Affairs and Sports</b>	: —