

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the August 21, 2003/Sravana 30, 1925 (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

Indians in Pakistani jails

*401. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian civil prisoners
and fishermen in Pakistani jails, at present;

(b) the number of Pakistani prisoners
and fishermen in Indian jails, at present;

(c) the steps being taken to get them
released from the respective countries;

(d) whether Pakistan has given any
assurance in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

I.T.Is in Assam

†*402. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH
SHARMAH: Will the Minister of
LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial Training
Institutes in the country, State-wise,
particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) whether Government propose to
open some new Industrial Training
Institutes in Assam;

(c) if so, the details of funds allocated
for the purpose and the names of the places

where these institutes are proposed to be
opened; and

(d) the names of places where Industrial
Training Institutes are proposed to be
opened during the next three years?

I.T. business

†*403. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-
CATIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that business of
information technology industry is
expected to be Rs. 1,96,105 crores by the
year 2006;

(b) if not, the assessments made in this
regard;

(c) whether the share of States has also
been assessed in this business; and

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

Funds allocated under PMRY in Karnataka

*404. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Karnataka

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

State under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana for the year 1999-2000 onwards, year-wise;

(b) the amount utilised and unutilised out of the above allocations; and

(c) the reasons of non-utilisation of the funds?

Joint working groups on terrorism

*405. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have set up joint working groups on terrorism; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

New services by private cell phone operators

*406. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the new services recently introduced by private cell phone operators like Airtel, Hutch, etc. and whether these are causing inconvenience to cell phone users;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these are in accordance with approval from TRAI; and

(d) if not, what action Government are willing to take to curb such practices by private operators?

Creation of jobs for J & K

*407. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for achieving the goal set for creating 1.5 lakh jobs in two years for Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether any task force has been set up to oversee the work; and

(c) what is the present status on the employment generation front?

Village Public Telephones

*408. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Comptroller & Auditor General of India has pulled up the Department of Telecommunications for allowing a benefit of Rs. 812 crores to the private sector basic service operators inspite of their failure to install village public telephones;

(b) if so, whether this has resulted in a loss of Rs. 720 crores;

(c) if so, how many companies have failed in implementing the decision; and

(d) the steps being taken to provide rural phones to the people during the year 2003?

Vacant posts in North-Eastern Council

*409. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several key posts in the North Eastern Council have remained vacant for long, causing serious problems in the Council's functioning;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to overhaul the structure of this Council; if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether the developmental targets fixed during the past five years were achieved?

BPL families in Orissa

*410. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a regular survey/review of Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana Families in Orissa in order to include more eligible families;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to focus on removal of shortcomings in the public distribution system especially in Orissa?

Visit of US Joint Chief of Staff Committee to India

*411. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of the US Joint Chief of Staff Committee, General Richard Meyers visited India in the last week of July, 2003;

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

(c) whether the General brought any special message from the US President with

regard to the stand taken by the Government of India about sending troops to Iraq; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Surrender of telephones

*412. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

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

(a) whether a large number of customers have surrendered their telephone connections under Khar Telephone Exchange of MTNL in Mumbai;

(b) if so, how many telephone connections have been surrendered during the last six months;

(c) whether MTNL continues to send monthly rental bills even after surrender of telephone connections and have not returned their security deposits; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when MTNL would refund the security deposits for the surrendered telephones?

Bridge between India and Sri Lanka

*413. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Sri Lanka has proposed for a bridge across the Palk Straits and also for starting a ferry service between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka;

(b) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu has apprised the Centre about its views;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the final decision of the Central Government thereon?

Amount of food subsidy for PDS

*414. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent annually on food subsidy for public distribution;

(b) whether it is also a fact that items like foodgrains, kerosene and sugar meant for public distribution are diverted to the open market in a large scale; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to check such diversion and ensure that the genuine beneficiaries get public distribution items?

Harassment of Haj pilgrims

*415. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI:
MAULANA OBAI-DULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prospective Haj pilgrims are harassed by Passport Offices and verifying agencies in U.P.; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps are proposed in the matter?

Unemployed graduates/post graduates

†*416. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the literacy percentage for the year 2001 was 65.37 in comparison to the 16.67 per cent in the year 1951 in the country;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed graduates and post graduates out of them; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to deal with this problem?

BPL quota of foodgrains for Gujarat

*417. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families for which the BPL quota of wheat and rice is allotted to Gujarat;

(b) whether any representation has been received by his Ministry from the State Government of Gujarat to allot BPL quota of wheat and rice for 35.52 lakh families;

(c) if so, what is the status of the proposal of increasing the allotment to increased number of BPL families of Gujarat; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Cost escalation of infrastructure projects

*418. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether slippage in implementation of major infrastructure projects like roads, railways and power has resulted in cost escalation of projects;

(b) if so, the percentage of escalation in cost as originally envisaged;

(c) whether these projects have also been delayed; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check the escalation of cost and expedite the completion of projects?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bidding by NHAI to cut cost of road projects

*419. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is making an attempt to cut costs on its massive inter-State highway development plan by moving to a less-cost bidding protocol;

(b) if so, wouldn't this move lead to serious defaults on quality;

(c) whether the NHAI has announced new bidding process for around 2,160 kms. of North-South-East-West corridors;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the progress of the above corridor in Andhra Pradesh?

I.T.Is in Mau and Azamgarh (U.P.)

*420. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mau and Azamgarh in U.P. are weaver concentrated areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no I.T.I. in that area; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to open atleast one I.T.I. for the benefit of the weavers community and the public residing in that area?

NEW DELHI;
The 14th August, 2003
Sravana 23, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: 404,
Atomic Energy	: —
Communications and Information Technology	: 403, 406, 408, 412,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 410, 414, 417,
Development of North Eastern Region:	409,
Disinvestment	: —
External Affairs	: 401, 405, 411, 413, 415,
Labour	: 402, 407, 416, 420,
Planning	: —
Road Transport and Highways	: 419,
Small Scale Industries	: —
Space	: —
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: 418.