

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on

Friday, the August 22, 2003/Sravana 31, 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

Safety surcharge on railway fares

*421. DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways propose to raise Rs. 5000 crores through levy of safety surcharge on passenger fares towards a non-lapsable railway safety fund over a period of six years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Transfer of technologies

*422. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have decided to set up a joint venture for transfer of technologies, evolved through collaborative efforts, to developed and developing countries;

(b) if so, whether the two countries have also identified new key scientific projects, including some in strategic areas for collaboration; if so, details in this regard;

(c) whether a Russian-Indian centre for Ayurvedic Research is also underway;

(d) if so, whether this decision was taken at a meeting he had with a 20 member Russian delegation; and

(e) if so, what are the follow up steps being taken in this regard?

Literacy rate among Muslim women

*423. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the literacy rate among Muslim women is growing in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Cleaning of river water

†*424. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have as a target, fixed the year 2007 as final time limit for making water of all the major rivers of the country clean;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the names of these rivers;
- (c) the quantity of water available at present for different uses in these rivers; and
- (d) the estimate with regard to availability of additional water from these rivers after 2007?

National Programme for Education of Girls

*425. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have cleared the ambitious National Programme for Education of Girls at the elementary level;
- (b) if so, the details of the programme;
- (c) what is the total amount set for this purpose;
- (d) by what time the programme is likely to be implemented; and
- (e) the States where this Programme is likely to be introduced?

Air pollution in metros

*426. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI JHUMUK LAL
BHENDIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has recently conducted a study about the increasing threat of air pollution in major metros;
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that according to CSE there are many harmful pollutants still in the air that cause many, illnesses and even cancer; and

(d) what further steps Government are willing to take to reduce air pollution further in all metros and big and small cities to ensure the health of its citizens?

Non-availability of water at railway stations

†*427. DR. AKHTAR HASAN RIZVI:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that most of the taps at railway stations have gone dry;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in this direction?

Recovery of overcharged amount

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

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has directed Government to recover immediately 50 per cent of amount from drug companies on account of overcharging from consumers for the drugs;
- (b) if so, the details of such drug manufacturers and amount overcharged by each of them from consumers; and
- (c) the action taken to recover 50 per cent of the said amount?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Foreign exchange earned by Palace on Wheels

*429. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the average occupancy of 'Palace on Wheels', the luxury train during the year 2002-2003;

(b) the foreign exchange earned by it during the above period; and

(c) what further steps are being taken by Government to make the train more popular for tourists?

Scheme for unauthorised vendors

†*430. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards commodities sold on stations and in trains by unauthorised vendors due to which travellers have to face lot of difficulties and incidents of theft etc. often take place;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme against those unauthorised vendors including the steps to implement it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Kitchen/organic gardening

*431. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether kitchen gardening can be of great help to propagate the cause of environment; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to create awareness among households about the potentials of kitchen as well as organic gardening?

Failure of Bt. cotton crop in Andhra Pradesh

†*432. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of reports regarding failure of Bt. cotton crop in Andhra Pradesh due to pests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are reconsidering to take back the approval by GEAC for commercialisation of GM technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

*433. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to emphasize minimum use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides for agricultural production; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Drugs under DPCO

*434. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court had ordered Government to submit fresh list of drugs to be kept under price control by 15th June, 2003; and

(b) if so, whether Government have submitted the list containing names of drugs?

Setting up of Utkal Chapter in Orissa

*435. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Utkal Chapter, branch of National Human Resource Development has been set up in Orissa, if so, the main objective and other details thereof;

(b) the number of existing chapters operating under National Human Resource Development network; and

(c) how far this would help in the development of the State and its people?

Poultry production

*436. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that chicken and egg production in the country is decreasing alarmingly;

(b) if so, the details of their production during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the

middlemen who trade in maize, the important feed ingredient, are responsible for the hike in the price of feeds and are responsible for the decline in the growth of chicken industry;

(d) if so, the details of steps Government propose to take to control the feed price; and

(e) the details of steps Government propose to take to promote small scale chicken farmers?

Use of drugs in National Games

*437. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 22 athletes who had participated in the National Games held at Hyderabad in April, had tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to curb the trend?

Drought assistance to Gujarat

*438. DR. A.K. PATEL: PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Gujarat Government for additional Central assistance to mitigate drought in the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

**Macro Management Schemes for
Tamil Nadu**

*439. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal have been received from the Tamil Nadu Government under the Macro Management of agriculture during the last three years and current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

Railway projects in Gujarat

*440. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing railway projects in Gujarat and the progress made till date;

(b) by when these projects are expected to be completed;

(c) the details of expenditure incurred thereon till date, project-wise;

(d) the funds required for completion of the pending projects indicating the amount of cost escalation, cost of each project from the date of sanction; and

(e) the steps being taken by Union Government for their expeditious completion?

NEW DELHI;
The 16th August, 2003
Sravana 25, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	: 431, 433, 436, 438, 439,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 428, 434,
Environment and Forests	: 424, 426, 432,
Food Processing Industries	: —
Human Resource Development	: 422, 423, 425, 435,
Ocean Development	: —
Railways	: 421, 427, 429, 430, 440,
Science and Technology	: —
Steel	: —
Youth Affairs and Sports	: 437.