

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the November 22, 2002/Agrahayana 1, 1924 (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

Pending projects for rail safety

*61. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several projects related to Rail safety in terms of track renewal rolling stock replacement/repair of Railway bridges are pending; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, date wise and Zone-wise?

for funds from NCCF, to tackle the drought situation;

(c) if so, which States the Central teams have visited and were planning to visit;

(d) what is the total damage caused by drought; and

(e) what steps were taken by the affected States to meet the situation?

Central teams for drought affected States

*62. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have yet to give clearance for Central teams to visit their States and assess the drought damage, before funds could be released under the Natural Calamity Contingency Fund;

(b) if so, whether the affected States had submitted memoranda to the Centre, asking

Export of medicinal plants

*63. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA :
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what bottlenecks India is facing in playing a major role in the supply of medicinal and herbal plants for the global herbal medicine and cosmetics industry; and

(b) the agencies involved in encouraging farmers to use latest technological developments for better and quicker yields of such plants and selling the produce in the global market?

International decade for culture of peace and non-violence

*64. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the United Nations' declaring 2001-2010 as the International decade for a culture of peace and non-violence for the children of the World, Government have drawn out elaborate programmes for the children of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Deletion of objectionable portions from text books

*65. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre and the National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) have conveyed to the Supreme Court that they were willing to delete from textbooks the portions termed as objectionable;

(b) if so, whether Government had changed the school syllabi to promote a particular political and religious ideology;

(c) whether the objectionable portions have been removed from the syllabi; and

(d) whether most of the States have refused to implement the National Curriculum Framework for school education imposed through the NCERT syllabus and textbooks in their States?

Foodgrains and financial assistance for drought affected States

*66. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that relief is not reaching the drought affected victims;

(b) if so, what is the total assistance provided to drought affected States, in terms of foodgrains and financial assistance;

(c) how much was made available to the drought victims;

(d) what was their total demand; and

(e) to what extent it fell short of?

Closure of Sindri and Durgapur fertilizer units

*67. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, captioned, "Government may revive FCI, HFC units in Bihar, West Bengal," appearing in 'Business Standard' dated 29th September, 2002;

(b) whether Government are re-considering their decision to close down units of Sindri and Durgapur, as reported in the aforesaid news-item;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government are also considering delaying the closure of these units, by at least a year, as reported in the news -item; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Disparities in UGC grants

*68. SHRI P. C. ALEXANDER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 86 per cent of non-plan grants released by the UGC during 2000-2001, have gone to Central Universities and the Deemed Universities leaving the State Universities with only a marginal share of these funds;

(b) whether gross disparities also exist in the grant of non-plan assistance between colleges affiliated to Central Universities and those to the State Universities; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether the UGC would be asked to ensure that the State Universities and the colleges affiliated to them get a more equitable share of these funds?

Athletic tracks in Himachal Pradesh

*69. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Himachal Pradesh Government for construction of athletic tracks in Bilaspur, Kangra and Mandi;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter?

Additional relief to rain-deficient States

*70. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nine rain-deficient States have sought Rs. 16,741.96 crore additional relief from the Centre;

(b) if so, whether these States have sought relief from Natural Calamity Contingency Fund;

(c) whether this demand is in addition to the second instalment of Rs. 809 crore already released; and

(d) if so, to what extent the demand of these States for additional relief from NCCF has been accepted by Government?

Construction of public toilets along Yamuna river

*71. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) has called upon his Ministry to investigate into the haphazard and ill-planned construction of public toilet blocks across the capital under the Yamuna Action Plan, Phase-I;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

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

Foodgrain production

*72. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether widespread drought in twelve States in the country has killed India's hopes of a repeated good food production this year;

(b) if so, whether experts see little change of India having a foodgrains production of 208 million tonnes, like in 1999-2000, or

the record production of 212 million tonnes in 2001-2002;

(c) if so, to what extent it has affected the foodgrains production; and

(d) what is the foodgrains target set during the year 2002-2003?

Assistance to drought affected Andhra Pradesh

*73. SHRI N. R. DASARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) which districts in Andhra Pradesh have been affected by the recent drought;

(b) what is the extent of loss incurred and the estimated shortfall in Kharif production in the State;

(c) what is the financial assistance sought by the State Government for relief measures and the amount sanctioned by the Union Government; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken to supply seeds, free of cost, to the poor farmers affected by the drought; if so, the details thereof?

Meetings of Central Advisory Board on Education

*74. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Central Advisory Board on Education met during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the decisions taken in these meetings and the steps taken to implement them?

Modernisation of FPIs in Assam

*75. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allotted any funds to Assam Government for expansion, modernisation and setting up of food processing industries in the State including the industries based on fruits and vegetables during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government have launched any scheme in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

Problem of cattle food

*76. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems faced by agriculturists owning cattle farms due to the shortage of cattle food like grass etc. whenever the country is affected by natural calamities like floods and drought; and

(b) if so, the details of remedies proposed by Government to save the poor agriculturists from this crisis?

Accident of Rajdhani Express

*77. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rail accident took place on the fateful night of 9th September, 2002

when the Delhi bound Rajdhani Express plunged into a river near Gaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the number of people who died/were injured in this accident, the compensation paid to dependents of the deceased and injured;

(c) whether any inquiry was ordered to investigate the reasons of the accident; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the enquiry report has since been received; if so, the findings thereof;

(e) the action proposed to be taken in this regard and to eliminate recurrence of such accidents?

Fall in Kharif production

*78. SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:
SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Economic Times', dated 25th September, 2002, titled "Kharif grain production may fall 18 per cent to 90.8 m. tonne";

(b) what is the current estimate of foodgrains and oilseeds production in this Kharif season and the measures initiated by Government to tide over the crisis in case of shortfall; and

(c) the relief provided to the affected farmers?

Hike in tuition fees in Kendriya Vidyalayas

*79. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC), set up by the Union Government, has recommended a hike in the tuition fees in Kendriya Vidyalayas; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether Government have since accepted this recommendation?

Scrapping of Railway projects

† *80. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister's Office has asked the Ministry of Railways to consider scrapping all those projects which were approved 10 years back or prior thereto but work has not started on them;

(b) if so, the State-wise and project-wise details thereof and the reasons for not starting the projects; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Ministry thereto?

NEW DELHI;
The 16th November, 2002
Kartika 25, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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