

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, the March 23, 2005/Chaitra 2, 1927 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Commerce and Industry; Defence; Home Affairs;
Non-Conventional Energy Sources; Power; Rural
Development; Textiles)**

Total number of questions — 20

Undertrials in jails

*301. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number
of accused in custody are awaiting
investigations/trials;

(b) the details of persons held in
custody in jails pending investigations/trials
as on 1st January, 2005 with break-up of
periods in custody;

(c) the number of those detained *vide*
Police Challans and *vide* Complaints to
Magistrates;

(d) the proportions of acquittals by trial
in cases initiated *vide* Police
Challans and those *vide* Complaints to
Magistrates;

(e) whether any review has been
undertaken especially with a view to
ascertain the rationale between the rate of
complaints and convictions; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof?

New Electricity Policy

*302. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
are proposing to adopt a New Electricity
Policy (NEP);

(b) if so, what are the main objectives
of NEP and have the State Governments
expressed their reservations in this
regard;

(c) what is the justification to have the
NEP in the context of the existing Electricity
Acts;

(d) what are the provisions made in the
NEP to protect the consumer from the
exploitation of private power producers;
and

(e) whether the NEP will cover the issue
of cross subsidy to Below Poverty Line
families?

Setting up of Export Credit Guarantee Corporation

*303. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an Export Credit Guarantee Corporation, with a National Exporters Insurance Fund of Rs. 2000 crore; and

(b) if so, the constitution, objects, functions and *modus operandi* thereof?

New Commission for Centre-States relations

*304. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted an 11-member high-powered Group of Ministers to finalise the terms of reference for the new Commission to study the Centre-State relations;

(b) if so, whether this group has already held a number of meetings till now;

(c) if so, to what extent this Commission will be different from the Sarkaria Commission;

(d) what are the main issues that this Commission will consider and whether the issues like distribution policy of foodgrains and financial assistance to States will also be considered by this Commission; and

(e) by what time final report of this Commission is likely to be submitted?

Impact of modified Patent Act

*305. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what impact the modified Patent Act will have on the domestic, pharmaceutical and chemical sectors, the sector-wise details thereof; and

(b) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken regarding the trepidation of small manufacturers?

Losses of SEBs

†*306. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of commercial losses in State Electricity Boards is constantly on increase for the last few years;

(b) if so, the quantum of such losses in 1990-91 and the estimated quantum of the same during 2005-06;

(c) whether Government have found out the reasons for such losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of the losses incurred due to each of the said reasons?

Separate courts to deal with patents and intellectual property rights issues

*307. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the intellectual property rights experts have urged the Government to have separate

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

courts to deal with issues connected with patents and intellectual property rights in the light of the new patent regime invoked from 1st January, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestion made by the experts;

(c) whether any action has been initiated in this direction by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Financial assistance for modernisation of police

†*308. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to provide full financial assistance for the modernisation of the police forces of the States;

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

(c) by when the decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard?

Status of products after expiry of EMRs

*309. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Exclusive Marketing Rights (EMRs) were applicable only upto 31st October, 2004;

(b) if so, what are the details of the products and companies for which EMRs were granted by the Patent Office; and

(c) what is the status of these products after the expiry of EMRs and whether they

automatically came under the new product patent?

Depletion of iron-ore resources in the country

*310. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of serious depletion in the iron-ore resources of the country due to substantial increase in export of iron-ore and fines in recent years;

(b) whether Government are aware of the surge in investment of steel making in the country, particularly in the Eastern Sector; and

(c) if so, the steps being proposed by Government to stop, reduce or control export of iron-ore and fines?

Facilities to BRO personnel

*311. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the personnel of Border Road Organisation (BRO), though work in critical border areas, do not get the facilities of ration, uniform, etc., commensurate to their counterparts in Defence services;

(b) if so, the details thereof in comparative terms;

(c) whether there is any demand/proposal to bring parity between them; and

(d) if so, whether Government support such demand?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Survey of villages not covered with potable water

*312. SHRIMATI. AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked Indian Institute of Public Administration to conduct a survey of the villages and habitations that are not covered with potable drinking water;

(b) if so, whether there are about 6000 rural habitations that lack a single source of potable drinking water and 69,000 habitations are partially covered;

(c) if so, whether over two lakh habitations lack quality drinking water;

(d) if so, whether IIPA has conducted the survey; and

(e) if so, what are the outcome of the survey and what are the steps Government propose to take to provide potable drinking water to all the habitations in the country?

Construction of temporary shelters for Tsunami victims

*313. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to construct temporary shelters for those Tsunami affected victims in Andaman and Nicobar Islands who have lost their belongings and rendered homeless;

(b) the number of people to be allotted such accommodations;

(c) whether the work will be completed before the on set of the monsoon;

(d) whether the victims will be provided infrastructure for starting their livelihood afresh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by when the work is likely to be completed?

Setting up fund collection mechanism

*314. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large portion of relief supplies, especially garments, from abroad meant for Tsunami victims has found its way to pavement markets in Delhi and other metros;

(b) whether the NGOs engaged in the Tsunami relief operations have alleged that maze of bureaucratic procedures for securing compensation, have frustrated the victims; and

(c) how many private trusts/bodies/institutions have set up fund collection mechanism for Tsunami victims and whether the receipts/disbursements by these fund-raising bodies are monitored/audited by Government?

Recommendation of National Advisory Council

*315. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Advisory Council (NAC) has recommended any special programme with regard to rural development to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have submitted any action plan or status report on rural development to the NAC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Construction of homes in rural and semi-rural areas

*316. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes that are under implementation for the construction of homes in the rural and semi-rural areas;

(b) the cost involved in the construction of each unit; and

(c) the total allocation made for this and the details of utilisation made?

Unspent money of rural electrification

*317. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what parameters are used to treat a village as electrified;

(b) how many villages are yet to be electrified in different States and Union Territories;

(c) the percentage of achievement over the targets in respect of rural electrification in the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(d) the State-wise break-up of the amount of money remaining unspent in respect of rural electrification; and

(e) the steps to be taken by Government in this regard?

Financial assistance to export units affected by Tsunami

*318. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marine Products Export

Development Authority (MPEDA) has completed survey of Tsunami affected export facilities in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the damage done to marine product processing factories by the Tsunami;

(c) whether MPEDA has made any suggestions to give financial assistance to such export units;

(d) if so, the details of such recommendations;

(e) whether adequate care is also being taken to ensure that fraudulent claims are not entertained; and

(f) the steps proposed to ensure that only genuine sufferers get help?

Tsunami affected families

†*319. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the calculation of the total number of families affected by Tsunami has been completed by Government;

(b) if so, the total number of such families, State-wise, separately;

(c) the number of such families out of them whose houses have been destroyed and needs rehabilitation; and

(d) by when the houses have been targeted to be provided to all such families by Government?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Origin of the Civil Defence initiatives
in the country**

*320. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, besides Police system in the States/UTs, there are other auxiliary localized institutions *e.g.*, Resistance Group, Volunteer Forces, etc., promoted by citizens' initiatives for maintenance of social/communal harmony etc.;

(b) when were such auxiliary units

introduced in our system and their details as of now;

(c) the details of the Civil Defence initiatives in the country;

(d) the details of Government supports to such initiatives, including revisions, if any, effected from time to time, since Independence;

(e) when was the module of training in Civil Defence formulated; and

(f) the details of revisions, if any, carried out therein so far?

NEW DELHI;
The 17th March, 2005
Phalguna 26, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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Power	: 302, 306, 317,
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