

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the December 23, 2004/Pausa 2, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Coal; Communications and Information Technology; External Affairs; Labour and Employment; Mines; 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)

Total number of questions — 20

Constitution of Asian Economic Community

*321. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated steps towards constitution of an Asian Economic Community on the lines of European Union (EU);

(b) if so, the precise constitution and *modus operandi* of the contemplated Economic Community and India's role therein; and

(c) the progress made in this regard, so far?

Funds for poverty eradication

*322. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether inadequate funds are blocking developmental goals to reduce poverty to half by the year 2015;

(b) whether the funds released by Government are not reaching to the poor; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to step up efforts to remove economic hurdles, to build up proper administration for fulfilment of millenium goals to eradicate poverty?

Security deposit in rural areas under NOIDA Telephone Exchange

†*323. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for registration of telephone, a security amount of Rs. 3000/- is being charged, instead of Rs. 500/-, from the consumers of rural categories coming under NOIDA Telephone General Manager;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of the matter?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Extradition treaty with Portugal

*324. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRISANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Government efforts to tie a formal extradition treaty with Portugal; and

(b) what efforts have been taken by Government to ensure that more Indian criminals in other countries like UAE, Bangkok etc. are also handed over?

Jobs to unemployed youths

*325. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed persons in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are forming a scheme for providing jobs to unemployed educated youths in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Single window facility for NRIs

*326. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have planned a comprehensive single window facility for Non-Resident Indians and also special courts and a 23 point programme that will address pressing issues concerning the NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent these proposals have been finalized and announced; and

(d) to what extent Government have been able to help the NRIs in a more systematic manner?

Child labour in cotton seed farms

*327. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of children are working under hazardous conditions in the cotton seed farms for various MNCs in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether a number of children have died or became seriously ill due to exposure to pesticides;

(c) whether Government have issued any instructions to these companies for restricting them from hiring child labourers; and

(d) the action taken by Government against the cotton seed companies employing child labourers?

Linking India, Myanmar and Thailand by road

†*328. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to link India, Myanmar and Thailand by road routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard would be taken?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Criteria for giving reservation to SC/ STs, and OBCs

*329. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the system adopted while giving reservation to SC/STs and OBCs in Civil Services and competitive examinations held by UPSC, SSC, etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that while allocation is made to SC/STs and OBCs, even meritorious reserved category candidates are also included in it; and

(c) whether Government would change this system of allocation for the benefit of the SC/STs and the OBCs?

Upgradation of certain ESI hospitals in Karnataka

*330. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government have sought upgradation of Belgaum, Chitradurga, Davangere, Haveri and Hubli ESI hospitals in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the present status of the above proposal?

Condition of Devidhar Telephone Centre

†*331. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of Devidhar Telephone Centre under Rohru Telephone Exchange in Shimla District is very bad;

(b) whether the present range of BSNL tower is limited to main Bazar Rohru only;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up one additional BSNL tower between Sima and Badiyara so that more people would be benefited; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

New coal deposits

†*332. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new coal deposits have of late been explored in the country by the Geological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the States having the deposits alongwith the quantity thereof; and

(c) the details of the schemes Government have worked out for mining the said deposits?

CBI raids

*333. SHRIDATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI conducted nation-wide raids on corrupt Government officials and a large number of businessmen in September, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of Government officials raided by the CBI;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the details of seizures made from these Government officials; and

(e) the departmental action so far taken against these officials?

**Regional Passport Office
at Aizawl**

*334. SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating opening of a Regional Passport Office at Aizawl;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

India-ASEAN Summit

*335. SHRI AJAY SINGH
CHAUTALA:
SHRIDARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Prime Minister attended the Third India-ASEAN Summit held at Vientiane in Laos on November, 29-30, 2004;

(b) if so, the details of discussions and the outcome thereof, indicating names of other countries which participated at the Summit;

(c) whether Indian Prime Minister also held bilateral meetings with his counterpart of China, Japan, etc. on the sidelines of Summit;

(d) if so, with what results; and

(e) whether India's proposal of a road and rail link between India and South-East Asia articulated at the above mentioned Summit?

**Functioning of High Commissions of
India and Pakistan**

*336. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that both India and Pakistan have taken a decision to restore their High Commission staff at New Delhi and Islamabad to the original status;

(b) if so, the reasons for pendency of thousands of applications for VISA in our High Commission at Islamabad; and

(c) if not, the reasons and the obstructions in the way of normalising the functioning of the High Commissions in both countries?

Corruption free Governance

*337. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any short term or long term plan that are both pragmatic and actionable to usher the country into an era of corruption free governance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Disputes referred by Uttaranchal
Government regarding allotment of
employees**

*338. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttaranchal has referred certain disputed issues to the Central Government for decision with regard to matter of allotment of employees after the formation of the State; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of such referred cases alongwith the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard?

Bypasses on National Highways in Kerala

*339. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Government of Kerala for early construction of bypasses on National Highways in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the status report of work started in each case; and

(d) by when the entire construction work is likely to be completed?

Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails

*340. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not honoured its promise of rescuing 406 Indian fishermen from Pakistani jails;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistani Marine Guards have seized 10 more boats and 60 fishermen from Gujarat;

(c) whether some of the fishermen are languishing in Pakistani jails for over three years; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to rescue those Indian fishermen?

NEW DELHI;
The 17th December, 2004
Agrahayana 26, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: —
Atomic Energy	: —
Coal	: 332,
Communications and Information Technology	: 323, 331,
External Affairs	: 321, 324, 334, 335, 336, 340,
Labour and Employment	: 325, 327, 330,
Mines	: —
Ocean Development	: —
Overseas Indian Affairs	: 326,
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Shipping, Road Transport and Highways	: 328, 339.
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Space	: —
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —