

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the March 24, 2005/Chaitra 3, 1927 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions — 20

Blue print of Tsunami Warning System

*321. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS
KAUR:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of OCEAN
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Canadian scientist
accompanying the Canadian Prime
Minister during his recent New Delhi visit,
made presentation of a blue print for setting
up a Tsunami Warning Centre in the Indian
Ocean;

(b) if so, the broad features and
estimated cost of the Tsunami Warning
Centre and whether the system is proposed
to be set up in a joint venture between the
Ocean States;

(c) whether the scientist had made such
an offer before Tsunami disaster also; and

(d) if so, Government's response
thereto?

Creation of special economic regions

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has
proposed the creation of special economic
regions in the country;

(b) if so, whether Planning Commission
has sent a note to Ministry of Commerce
to consider creation of five or six very large
Special Economic Regions instead of the
SEZs;

(c) whether proposed Economic
Regions would be set up with world-class
infrastructure and would not be meant for
experts only;

(d) whether Government have
considered the suggestions made by the
Planning Commission; and

(e) if so, by what time a final decision in
this regard is likely to be taken?

Visit of Afghan President to India

*323. PROF. ALKA BALRAM

KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Afghanistan President during his visit to India has impressed upon India that he would take up the issue about Indian goods being able to enter Afghanistan through Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the two agreements were signed between India and Afghanistan;

(c) if so, to what extent these agreements would be helpful for both the countries;

(d) whether Indian Airlines would begin flying the Delhi-Kabul sector from March 27; and

(e) what are the other assistance that would be provided to Afghanistan by India during 2005-06?

Indians in Iraq

†*324. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of Indian Nationals have rushed to Iraq, so far;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of them belong to labour class;

(c) if so, whether Government have made any arrangement for their safety in Iraq; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Accidents in Andhra Pradesh

*325. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the number of accidents on highways in Andhra Pradesh is continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the number of such accidents that occurred during the last one year, togetherwith the number of persons killed and injured separately;

(c) the details of the loss of property suffered in these accidents;

(d) whether the number of road accidents is on the rise due to rash driving, over loading, untrained driving or over speeding lorries; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to prevent such accidents in future?

Change in geographical map of the country due to Tsunami

*326. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that following Tsunami, the geographical map of the country has undergone a change;

(b) if so, whether any assessment in this regard has been made by the Survey of India or any other agency;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent of changes in the geographical map?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Potential of bio-tech industry

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

(a) whether it is a fact that even though India has great potential, the bio-tech industry remains to be small with a size of 17 million US \$ (in 1994) with limited Indian players;

(b) the number of bio-tech companies operating in India with their products and services; and

(c) the steps taken and schemes formulated by Government for the bio-tech sector development in the country?

Manufacture of tele-communication equipment

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign companies have requested for manufacturing of tele-communication equipments in the country;

(b) if so, the details of those companies; and

(c) the total amount likely to be invested on the manufacturing of tele-communication equipments by the said companies?

Agreements with Iran

*329. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to send a technical team to Iran by the end of March to discuss gas pipeline project;

(b) if so, whether India and Iran have also decided to explore prospects of setting up economic cooperation and a Special Committee has been constituted in this regard;

(c) if so, what were the other issues discussed by the Iranian Foreign Minister during his visit in February to India;

(d) to what extent, both countries have agreed on various issues and whether any agreements have been signed; and

(e) if so, the details of the agreements?

Preparation of a mega road project

*330. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has prepared a mega project worth Rs. 1 lakh 70 thousand crores to develop roads, by passes, express highways, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) the details of districts/areas covered in the State of Andhra Pradesh in the said project; and

(d) whether this project is a part of the on-going North-South/East-West and Golden Quadrilateral Project under the NHDP?

Reduction in land line charges

*331. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the private and even Government Cellular

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and WLL service providers are effectively competing with Land Line Service Providers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner, Government would make land line charges much lower than cellular and WLL Service Providers to help the rural users all over the country?

Capability of ports for modern vessels

*332. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Country's ports are capable of handling new generation vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the steps taken by Government to make these ports capable of handling new generation vessels?

Bridge on Dhar River

†*333. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the revised estimates of the bridge on Dhar river along 376 kilometers of National Highway No. 12 on Jaipur-Jabalpur Road are pending for a long time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the work on bridge has been completed but the work on the approach has come to a halt due to non-clearance of revised estimates; and

(c) by when, the revised estimates would be given clearance so that the work on approach can be completed?

Recommissioning of Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium

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

(a) whether it is a fact that for the last eight months the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium is lying in a state of misuse after it was closed due to receipt of notice from Delhi Fire Service to comply with fire safety norms;

(b) if so, whether the fire fighting norms have been fulfilled;

(c) whether 'No Objection Certificate' has been obtained from the Delhi Fire Service Organisation; and

(d) by when the Indoor Stadium would be recommissioned for maximum utilisation, especially in view of the impending Commonwealth Games?

Upgradation of roads of Kerala

*335. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala to convert the main Central roads of Kerala into national highways;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Coal consumption norms

*336. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal consumption norms for captive power plants determined by a Technical Committee comprising of representatives from Central Electricity Authority, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Coal India Ltd., have been approved by the Standing Linkage Committee at its meeting;

(b) whether the panel suggested that Ministry of Power and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion should recommend Coal Linkage only after proper scrutiny; and

(c) whether Government have constituted an Expert Committee to give a fillip to the coal sector?

Redressal of public grievances

†*337. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued instructions recently, wherein all the States and Union Territories have been asked to take action on matters published in newspapers for addressing the problems of the common people;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and when these instructions were issued; and

(c) the names of those States and Union Territories which have accorded their consent so far after issuance of these instructions?

Regulation of placement agencies

*338. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating regulation of the functioning of the private placement agencies to decentralize the placement services by setting up area-wise centres;

(b) if so, the details of the regulations his Ministry is thinking about; and

(c) whether it is in compliance with the ILO convention?

Deficit of manpower in I.T. Sector

*339. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian I.T. Sector has shown a remarkable progress in export and domestic market;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with revenue, including foreign exchange generated by the I.T. sector during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that studies have indicated the I.T. Sector in the country will suffer a massive manpower shortage in the next few years; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard, with measures taken by Government to meet this likely deficit of manpower in the I.T. Sector?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Removal of regional imbalances

*340. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had agreed in principle to share 50 per cent of the cost of implementing various

recommendations of Dr. D.M. Nanjundappa Committee that looked into regional imbalances; and

(b) if so whether Government have received any proposal from the Karnataka Government for improving the living standards in the Hyderabad, Karnataka areas?

NEW DELHI;
The 18th March, 2005
Phalguna 27, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
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Atomic Energy	: —
Coal	: 336,
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