

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the April 24, 2003/Vaisakha 4, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Development of North Eastern Region; Disinvestment; External Affairs; Labour; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—20

New nuclear power plants

*481. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the plans for setting up of new nuclear power plants and the proposed locations therefor;

(b) the power generation capacity thereof; and

(c) by when the projects would be completed?

Speed Post service in Tamil Nadu

*482. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Speed Post service extended in Tamil Nadu so far, district-wise;

(b) the districts in Tamil Nadu where Speed Post service is presently not available; and

(c) the criteria for extending the Speed Post service in a particular place?

Completion of Golden Quadrilateral

*483. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral road project is likely to miss the completion target of December, 2004;

(b) if so, whether over 40 per cent of the contract were awarded after July, 2001;

(c) what are the reasons for delay;

(d) whether any tentative date has been fixed for its completion instead of 2004; and

(e) if so, the efforts being made to complete the project early?

Speed Post facility in Rajasthan

*484. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Speed Post facility has been provided in the backward areas of Rajasthan;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the measures contemplated to improve the situation?

Passports issued from Delhi and Lucknow

*485. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for passports received in Delhi and Lucknow during the last one year indicating the numbers of passports issued so far;

(b) the number of applications which are pending for more than 4 weeks alongwith the reasons for delay in their disposal; and

(c) what steps have been taken for early disposal of these applications?

Restructuring of FCI

*486. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) has recommended restructuring of the Food Corporation of India in order to reduce operating cost of the foodgrains management system; and

(b) if so, the details of its recommendations and Government's reaction thereto?

Revival of Indo-US cooperation

*487. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the visit of the Chairman of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission has reactivated Indo-US cooperation in the civilian nuclear field which was affected by the post-Pokhran sanctions;

(b) if so, whether on the Indo-US cooperation front, two new programmes have been added to the original three, which were agreed to in mid-1990s but remained dormant;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent the above visit has boosted the nuclear ties between the two countries?

Revision of contract labour laws

*488. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are all set to abandon radical revision of its laws on contract labour and opt for creeping reforms that would progress step by step;

(b) whether Government propose to amend the laws on contract labour and shift the responsibility for labour welfare from the employer to the contractor and to remove the distinction between core and non-core activities; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the proposed amendments?

NHAI proposal to Karnataka

*489. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has sent a proposal to the Karnataka Government for taking over outer ring roads connecting Hosur-Chennai and Bellary-Tumkur;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has evaluated the above proposal;

(c) whether NHAI had also proposed to levy toll tax on the inter-State transport vehicles;

(d) if so, the amount of toll tax proposed to be levied; and

(e) whether the State Government has given its approval to the above proposal?

PPDCs in North Bengal

*490. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the locations proposed to establish new Process-cum-Product Development Centres (PPDCs);

(b) the process technology that would be designed to support such centres;

(c) whether any new PPDCs are proposed to be established in the Northern part of West Bengal;

(d) the funds allotted for this purpose; and

(e) the present position and progress in establishing new PPDCs?

Female child labour

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

(a) whether number of female child workers is increasing in the country and they are not getting their due payments, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that female child labour are not getting free education and health care, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps Government propose to take for their welfare; and

(d) the details of the female child labourers in Karnataka and the beneficiary schemes for them?

Tax on Cottage, Khadi and Village Industries

†*492. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has indicated on 14th March that Government have taken a final decision to impose tax on the Cottage, Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether all the products of these industries would be adversely affected as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Prime Minister has also emphasised the need to check the extravagance of the bureaucrats instead of imposing tax on these industries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and the justification for imposing tax on these industries?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Non-availability of spectrum

*493. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various telecom operators have been complaining of non-availability of spectrum;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking/propose to take to redress their complaints; and

(c) what is Government's spectrum policy?

Enactment of new set of labour laws

*494. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a new set of labour laws to promote employment and investment, particularly foreign direct investment;

(b) if so, whether any legislation in this regard is being considered;

(c) whether Government have also taken a decision that all the existing labour laws, numbering about 50, would come for a thorough change following the new legislation;

(d) if so, by when this legislation would be introduced; and

(e) to what extent it would be helpful for labour?

Edible oil refineries

*495. DR. M.N. DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign companies are keen in setting up of refineries and trading partnership in edible oils;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Agriculture has strongly objected to this proposal;

(c) if so, the objections raised by that Ministry;

(d) whether the Department of Commerce has given green signal and has asked the foreign capital for the edible oil projects; and

(e) if so, the foreign investments approved so far?

Contribution of Non-Profit Organisations

*496. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Non-Profit Organisations employ about 20 million people as paid staff or volunteer staff; and

(b) whether Government propose to support the Non-Profit Organisations in their activities and maintain a data of their activities for development?

Allocation of foodgrains to Himachal Pradesh

*497. SHRIANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat allocated to Himachal Pradesh from the Central Pool from 1999-2000 to date under the Central Welfare Scheme, year-wise and district-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure that allocation is utilised for the welfare schemes only and not diverted to black market?

Failure of PDS

*498. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Distribution System is a failure and PDS shops remain open only on two or three days in a month; and

(b) the measures taken to eradicate persistent recurrence of hunger and starvation in the particular regions?

WLL in Rajasthan

*499. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for providing WLL system to

facilitate expansion of telecom network in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, WLL system would be made available to the State?

Operation of International Gateway at Guwahati

*500. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) when the international gateway for Internet was inaugurated by VSNL at Guwahati;

(b) the hours during which the gateway remained operational till December, 2002 since its inception;

(c) the reasons for interrupted connectivity/non-operation of the gateway and the action taken to rectify the same;

(d) whether this connectivity is still being provided through BSNL's leased optic fibre from Kolkata to Guwahati;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the alternative channel therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 17th April, 2003
Chaitra 27, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

INDEX
(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: 492,
Atomic Energy	: 481, 487,
Communications and Information Technology	: 482, 484, 493, 499, 500,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 486, 495, 497, 498,
Development of North Eastern Region	: —
Disinvestment	: —
External Affairs	: 485,
Labour	: 488, 491, 494,
Planning	: 496,
Road Transport and Highways	: 483, 489,
Small Scale Industries	: 490.
Space	: —
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —