

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on

Thursday, the July 25, 2002/Sravana 3, 1924 (Saka)

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution; External Affairs; Labour;
Parliamentary Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and
Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways;
Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and
Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—20

National Highways in Punjab

*161. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any instructions have been issued for the expeditious completion of four-laning of the National Highway between Jalandhar and Amritsar, as per the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in November, 2001; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating a special economic assistance package for the border districts of Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Ferozepur in Punjab as in the case of Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern States?

Collection of toll-tax

†*162. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to collect toll-tax at all four-lane National Highways, bypasses and major bridges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the toll-tax would be discontinued after realisation of the costs of the highways/bridges etc., if not, the reasons therefor?

Irregularities in Mumbai airport emigration section

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the rampant irregularities at the Mumbai airport emigration section in regard to emigration of low-paid employees like housemaids, etc., to gulf countries;

(b) whether Government have come across reports/complaints pertaining to collusion between emigration staff at Mumbai and travel agents registered with Government for overseas placements; and

(c) if so, whether Government have initiated any action on such reports/complaints by transfer/suspension of the involved staff and/or blacklisting the errant travel agents?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

OIC membership to India

†*164. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the proposal of Qatar to grant Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) membership to India in the Conference of Islamic Countries held in Khartum has been turned down;

(b) if so, the details thereof and also the reasons therefor; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Continuation of Department of Posts

†*165. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for withdrawing the concession available to newspapers and magazines under the Indian Post Offices Act instead of making use of the provisions of article 4 of the same Act; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to protect the honour and existence of the Department of Posts and Telegraph and increasing the sale of tickets?

Bill for welfare of agricultural labour

*166. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Bill for welfare of agricultural labour is pending in his Ministry since long; and

(b) what is the present status of the Bill?

Development of SSIs in Tamil Nadu

*167. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes and programmes implemented by Government for the development of small and tiny sector in Tamil Nadu during the past three years; and

(b) the details of the benefits derived by these sectors under these schemes?

Central Manpower Export Promotion Council

*168. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council to encourage regulated international gateway for Indian workers going abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several Indian workers are duped by unscrupulous agents abroad; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide adequate employment protection to the Indian workers abroad?

Computerization of treasuries in Karnataka

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

(a) whether it is a fact that he had announced in Bangalore that the Centre would finance the network portion of the project aimed at computerization of treasuries in Karnataka; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the Centre's share of the project would be released?

Development Reserve Fund for State-level Reforms

*170. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to appoint an apex body to monitor the proposed Development Reserve Fund for State-level Reforms in backward areas as a part of the second generation reforms;

(b) if so, the areas which have since been identified for such projects; and

(c) the members of the proposed apex monitoring body?

Income of States

*171. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the States that had income below the national average income in Urban areas that has come down in the year 2000 in comparison to last one decade;

(b) the reasons analysed for the downfall; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

Internet facilities at rural post offices in Bihar

†*172. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in rural areas of Bihar which have e-mail, Internet and Computer facilities; and

(b) whether Government propose to provide the above facilities in all important post offices of rural areas in the State within a fixed time-limit?

Asian Cooperation Dialogue

*173. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) held, recently, has proposed any agenda for sustainable peace in this continent;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the conclusions evolved in ACD;

(c) whether ACD is proposed to be held periodically; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Presence of Al-Qaida men in Pakistan

*174. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 3000 Al-Qaida men are living in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government have shared this information with USA and UK;

(c) if so, their reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet Al-Qaida threat?

Call centres in Delhi

*175. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL propose to set up call centres in Delhi and Mumbai;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of centres proposed to be set up during 2001-2002;
- (d) the type of services offered through these centres; and
- (e) the amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

Mahila Mandal Bhawan at Shimla

*176. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Pradhan, Mahila Mandal Nandla, Teh. Chirgaon, District Shimla of Himachal Pradesh to release fund for construction of Mahila Mandal Bhawan/Guest House under the Rural Shelter Component of PMGY;
- (b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard; and
- (c) if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

Missile Defence System

*177. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether at a meeting of the Indo-US defence policy group on May 23, 2002, in New Delhi, India and the United States moved closer on the issue of Missile Defence System;
- (b) if so, the precise identity of views achieved in this regard, indicating the stand taken by each side; and

- (c) the agreement on Missile Defence System, if any, reached between the two sides?

Grants for widening National Highways in U.P.

*178. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the financial assistance granted by Government to Uttar Pradesh for widening National Highways during the last three years; and
- (b) the details of such funds utilized so far in the State?

Decline in sugar production

†*179. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that production of sugar has decreased substantially in the country during April this year as compared to the same month of previous year;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the existing stock of sugar in the country as compared to the previous year; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to increase the production of sugar?

Economic reforms in India

†*180. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether a Development and Reform Facility Fund with 2,500 crore of rupees was set up by Government to accelerate the pace of economic reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the heads for which provision was made to provide

amount from the said fund togetherwith the amount earmarked for each of those heads; and

(c) the States in which the amount has so far been disbursed from this fund by the end of June, 2002, togetherwith the amount thereof in each State?

NEW DELHI;
The 19th July, 2002

Asadha 28, 1924 (Saka)

R. C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	:	—
Agro and Rural Industries	:	—
Atomic Energy	:	—
Communications and Information Technology	:	165, 169, 172, 175,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	:	179,
External Affairs	:	164, 173, 174, 177,
Labour	:	163, 166, 168,
Parliamentary Affairs	:	—
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	:	—
Planning	:	170, 171, 176, 180,
Road Transport and Highways	:	161, 162, 178,
Small Scale Industries	:	167.
Space	:	—
Statistics and Programme Implementation	:	—