

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the July 25, 2003/Sravana 3, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and Forests;
Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development;
Ocean Development; Railways; Science and Technology; Steel;
Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions—20

Data on railway bridges

*81. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG has warned that the
absence of data on construction of over one
lakh railway bridges may hamper their
monitoring; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures
proposed to be taken in this regard?

Cotton production

*82. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of cotton
which was 14 million bales before, has
come down to less than 9 million bales;

(b) whether the cotton growers are in
trouble in spite of Bt-cotton being grown
in a substantial area; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose
to take to improve the condition of cotton
growers?

Digital weather broadcast services

*83. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian
Meteorological Department has started
satellite based digital weather broadcast
services to help the fishermen and
seafarers;

(b) if so, the details of the digital
technology that is being used to help the
fishermen;

(c) whether this service can be used by
other agencies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Rail projects in Rajasthan

†*84. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will
the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to
state:

(a) the details of on-going new rail
projects and surveys conducted in
Rajasthan alongwith the progress made for
the completion of these projects so far;

(b) the project-wise details of funds
allocated and expenditure incurred on these
projects;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether State Government have requested the Central Government for special package to complete these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Review of working of Bharat Shiksha Kosh

*85. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Bharat Shiksha Kosh to make it a sole authority to receive and disburse funds donated by alumnus to their alma mater in India;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the working of the Bharat Shiksha Kosh;

(c) if so, the result thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that due to such interception by Government in the flow of funds to IITs and IIMs, the wishes of the donors are not honoured and the donors are becoming hesitant to further donate; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to allay the fears of the donors, especially the N.R.I's and also to clarify the role of Government in utilising these contributions?

Centrally sponsored environment projects in Assam

*86. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored environment projects launched in the State of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the total amount provided by Government for this purpose during this period;

(c) the details of the achievements made in this regard; and

(d) the details of such projects proposed to be launched in the State during the Tenth Plan?

Suicide by farmers in Andhra Pradesh

*87. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) number of farmers who committed suicide due to crop loss or indebtedness in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise; and

(b) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure that hapless farmers do not resort to this extreme step in the State and rest of the country?

Platforms at Madurai railway station

*88. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madurai railway station has a heavy traffic but there are not enough platforms;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the number of platforms there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Subsidy to fertilizer manufacturers

†*89. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have adopted different methods for providing subsidy to different kinds of chemical fertilizer manufacturers of the country;

(b) if so, method-wise details of chemical fertilizer manufacturers who are provided with subsidy; and

(c) details of the benefit of adopting these methods?

Progress under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

*90. SHRI MURLI DEORA:
SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry's flagship programme "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" has achieved any amount of success;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States which are not taking keen interest in the programme and not releasing funds of their share;

(d) the amount granted to each State for 2002-2003 and the amount spent by them so far;

(e) whether there is any common standard prescribed to build schools and to supply different materials to the schools in a State; and

(f) how are the propagators of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan appointed and what is their individual emolument?

Rail accidents

*91. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:
SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of accidents during the past three years, date-wise;

(b) the number of deaths in these accidents;

(c) the cumulative amount of *ex-gratia* payments made by Government to the next of kin of the deceased and the injured;

(d) whether the broad reasons for such frequent railway accidents have been identified;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) steps proposed to be taken to prevent the accidents and make railway journey safe for the passengers?

Foodgrain production in Punjab

*92. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab farmers have shifted from the traditional wheat and rice cultivation to more lucrative crops such as castorseed in a large scale;

(b) if so, what are the incentives being given by the Punjab Government for such shifting of crops; and

(c) what is the estimated reduction in the foodgrain production during this year?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Fire safety measures in trains

*93. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fire safety measures in trains are found to be inadequate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the first major fire in train was reported in 1990 and thereafter till date no serious efforts have been made to equip trains with fire fighting equipment;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the plans of Government to protect trains from fire incidents?

Universities in the country

†*94. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of universities in the country and the details thereof;

(b) whether UGC propose to interconnect all universities of the country; and

(c) if so, the details of the benefit which the students are likely to get from this measure?

Amenities at Alwar railway station

*95. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been severe shortage of passenger amenities on Alwar railway station in Rajasthan;

(b) whether there has been delay in the modernisation of platforms of that station and also the present computerised booking office is being shifted to other place;

(c) whether the rapid entry display and auto response system machines installed on that station are non-functional;

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

(e) action contemplated by Government for the expeditious completion of all the pending works and modernisation process of Alwar railway station?

Oilseeds production

*96. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much foreign exchange has been spent on import of edible oil during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02;

(b) what was the production of edible oil in the country during these years;

(c) why are Government not encouraging growing of more oilseeds in the country since it does not require highly irrigated land; and

(d) whether Government are only keen to import oil, if so, the details of the policy?

Prices of anti-cancer drugs

*97. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government issued the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO) in 1995 and if so, major provisions thereof;

(b) whether anti-cancer drugs have been kept out of DPCO and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware of the very high prices of anti-cancer drugs

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

in the domestic pharma market causing intense suffering to the cancer patients; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to cut the prices of anti-cancer life saving drugs so as to make them within easy reach of cancer patients?

Establishment of higher education centres in rural areas

† *98. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards inadequacy of higher education and its lower standard in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to formulate a comprehensive scheme to establish higher education centres in rural areas to impart training to the ambitious students of rural areas in order to make them compete with the students of urban areas for seeking employment in higher posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of Famine Code

*99. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the unprecedented drought that hit different parts of the country with hungry millions in the face of overflowing godowns, the Supreme Court had directed the States, in

May this year to implement the famine code for the next three months;

(b) if so, the response of the States to implement relief work meticulously as per famine code;

(c) the foodgrain and cash allocation to each State under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana; and

(d) the steps taken by Union Government in pursuance of the Apex Court's directions?

UGC guidelines on admission to private self-financing medical and engineering colleges

*100. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC guidelines on admission are also applicable to private self-financing medical and engineering colleges; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there are any guidelines for fixing number of students to be admitted on merits and the fees to be collected from them in the private self-financing medical and engineering colleges;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reason therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to formulate guidelines for admission criteria and fees in private self-financing medical and engineering colleges?

NEW DELHI;
The 19th July, 2003
Asadha 28, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

Agriculture	: 82, 87, 92, 96, 99,
Chemicals and Fertilizers	: 89, 97,
Environment and Forests	: 86,
Food Processing Industries	: —
Human Resource Development	: 85, 90, 94, 98, 100,
Ocean Development	: —
Railways	: 81, 84, 88, 91, 93, 95,
Science and Technology	: 83.
Steel	: —
Youth Affairs and Sports	: —