

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the November 25, 2005/Agrahayana 4, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Environment and Forests; Food Processing Industries; Health and Family Welfare; Railways; Steel)

Total number of questions — 20

Environmental clearance to Balachaur-Hoshiarpur-Dasuya highway

*41. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal sent by the Punjab Government for removing/cutting of trees for upgradation of the Balachaur-Hoshiarpur-Dasuya highway is pending for environmental clearance;

(b) if so, since when the request is pending; and

(c) by when, the clearance is likely to be accorded?

Commissions/Committees on rail accidents

*42. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to set up a special commission/committee to find out the reasons/causes of rail accidents;

(b) if so, the total number of such Commissions/Committees set up by

Government during the last three months, month-wise; and

(c) when the reports of the Commissions/Committees are expected to be received by Government?

Relaxation of Coastal Zonal Regulation

*43. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has sought the relaxation of Coastal Zonal Regulation, 1991 for some areas in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the names of such areas;

(c) the reaction of the Central Government thereto; and

(d) the reasons for not accepting the proposal?

Encouraging investment in agricultural marketing infrastructure projects

*44. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided

to come out with an innovative scheme to encourage entrepreneurs investing in agricultural marketing infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, whether this move is aimed at bringing down risk threat for both entrepreneurs and banks;

(c) whether venture capital scheme was part of Government's effort to bridge the gap between producer and consumer;

(d) whether the scheme covers a wide range of agricultural and allied sectors' activities including collection, cleaning, grading, quality certification, labelling, packing, ripening chambers, retailing, wholesale and value addition facilities; and

(e) if so, by when these schemes are likely to be implemented?

Revival of IISCO

*45. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Iron and Steel Company continues to be a loss-making concern, if so, the production, profit and loss incurred by each of its units since 2001 onwards;

(b) whether some of its units have been lying idle fully or partially, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to revive the same and the strategy contemplated to revive and rejuvenate this PSU?

National Accreditation Board

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

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have announced formation of a task force

comprising experts from the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Tourism, Railways, External Affairs, Civil Aviation and Director General of Health Services to suggest strengthening the policy measures and norms for National Accreditation Board to provide accreditation to private hospitals;

(b) whether Government will also come out with Clinical Establishment Act;

(c) whether Government have also announced that policy decision for granting of medical visa will also be considered; and

(d) whether the Ministry of Tourism will also aid the Ministry in giving strategic push to Indian health-care sector in foreign markets?

Passenger-upgrade scheme

*47. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the free passenger-upgrade scheme announced recently by Railways is operational;

(b) if so, the total amount saved, so far, by Railways on account of not having to refund money for waitlisted tickets;

(c) if not, by when the scheme would be made operational; and

(d) the launch status of other passenger-friendly services by Railways, like bundling of hotel services alongwith train ticket bookings?

Dioxins in eggs

*48. SHRI THENNALA G.
BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an NGO

called "Toxic Link" has reported that eggs produced in the country contain high level of dioxins which is a poisonous chemical;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Shortage of onion

†*49. DR. PRABHA THAKUR :
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there was acute shortage of onion in the month of October in the country which necessitated import of onion;

(b) the names of the countries wherefrom Government imported onion alongwith the value of onion imported, country-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the shortage of onion and the reasons for not overcoming the situation in time?

Pulse production

*50. SHRI R. K. ANAND : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Green Revolution which made India self-sufficient in wheat and rice had ignored pulses; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that India imported pulses to the tune of 1701.16 thousand tonnes worth Rs. 2251.20 crores in 2003-04?

Cutting down the production cost by SAIL

†*51. DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India has decided to implement a scheme by spending Rs. 400 crores in order to cut down the production cost;

(b) if so, the details of the said scheme;

(c) the percentage of reduction in the existing steel production cost expected after the completion of this scheme; and

(d) the profit of the organisation in terms of amount expected as a result of reduction in the production cost?

Popularising SDF in sugar industry

*52. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI
BARUPAL:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether there is poor response from sugar industry to Sugar Development Fund for modernization or expansion of plants;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether Government have urged sugar industry to improve quality of sugar to make it internationally acceptable;

(d) whether Government are ready to ease the conditions so that more and more industrialists are interested in utilizing this fund; and

(e) the total amount, so far, provided to sugar industry from this fund?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bird Flu

*53. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Health Organisation has warned of spreading of Bird Flu in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken measures to check spreading of Bird Flu in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Cases in District Consumer Courts

*54. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new cases registered in various District Consumer Courts during 2004 in the country;

(b) the total number of old cases pending disposal as on 1st January, 2004;

(c) out of total cases, how many were disposed of during 2004 and whether the disposal was more than new registrations;

(d) whether inordinate delay is being caused in the disposal of consumer cases; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures intended to be taken?

Task Force on drug price control

*55. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

(a) whether present price control policy

for drugs is blocking entry of new drugs and the PMs Task Force on drugs has recommended fixing a ceiling on prices, which could be flexible and linked to wholesale price index;

(b) whether this Task Force headed by Shri Pranob Sen was set up to look into ways to make drugs available at reasonable prices;

(c) whether it has already submitted its recommendations to his Ministry;

(d) if so, the details thereof and how many of the recommendations have been accepted; and

(e) the steps being taken to implement them?

Losses of Railways

*56. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI RAASHID ALVI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have lost nearly Rs. 2000 crores over the delay in using recycled scrap to manufacture wheels;

(b) whether during 2004-05 Budget it had been promised that 1 million tonnes of scrap that is generated each year would no longer be sold but would be recycled to make wheels in the factory;

(c) whether due to non-implementation of this decision Railways have incurred a loss of Rs. 2000 crore; and

(d) if so, the main reasons for delay and by what time a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Research on elimination of pesticides

*57. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers in Penta Srirampuram in Andhra Pradesh have managed to eliminate pesticides from their rice crop by following a three-step procedure as evolved by their agricultural officer;

(b) if so, whether this innovative method will be studied by the agricultural scientists of ICAR with a view to ensuring its application on a selective basis depending upon soil; and

(c) if so, by when?

Shortage of onion/wheat production

*58. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of onion/wheat in the country is expected to be less than the target during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for this shortfall;

(c) whether Government propose to import onion/wheat this year in order to meet the shortage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof country-wise and quantity-wise and the total expenditure likely to be involved therein during the current year?

Ongoing railway projects in Southern Railways

*59. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing Railway projects under the Southern Railways;

(b) the details of the estimated costs alongwith details of funds allocated to each of these projects, project-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the project works are not progressing satisfactorily due to inadequate fund allotments;

(d) if so, whether steps have been taken to release adequate funds to speed up the completion of these works;

(e) if so, details thereof, project-wise; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

Rail infrastructure in Orissa

*60. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that industrialization of Orissa would necessitate development of rail infrastructure particularly from Jaipur, Paradip, Gopalpur, Jharsuguda, Raigada, etc.;

(b) whether this will also necessitate immediate rail linkage from Kalahandi to Gopalpur to meet the needs of industrialization of the backward areas with a view to improving the economy of this region; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to address this issue?

NEW DELHI;
The 19th November, 2005
Kartika 28, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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