

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Thursday, the August 26, 2004/Bhadrapada 4, 1926 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;  
Coal and Mines; Communications and Information Technology;  
External Affairs; Labour and Employment; Non-Resident Indians  
Affairs; Ocean Development; Personnel, Public Grievances and  
Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Science and  
Technology; Shipping; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics  
and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions — 20

#### Social Security Schemes under EPFO

\*441. SHRIDIPANKARMUKHERJEE:  
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND  
EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had designated  
the Employees Provident Fund  
Organisation (EPFO) as the nodal agency  
for administering social security schemes  
in the country; and

(b) whether the EPFO, as a nodal  
agency, has been authorised to issue  
National Social Security Numbers to the  
workers covered under various social  
security schemes?

others to attend on accident victims and  
also provide First Aid, etc. on major  
Highways like NH-5;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether  
any action has been initiated in this matter;

(c) whether it is a fact that the NHAI  
has not reacted to such offers; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the  
steps proposed to be taken to immediately  
attend to such offers?

#### Services for accident victims on Highways

\*442. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA  
RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD  
TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NHAI  
Project Office in Rajahmundry has  
received offers of help from NGOs and

#### Labour laws on LPG distributors

†\*443. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:  
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND  
EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Labour laws like State  
Insurance Corporation and Provident Fund  
laws have been enforced on LPG  
distributors; and

(b) the grounds on which these labour  
laws have been enforced?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Express lane on NH-9**

\*444. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representation has been received to take up expeditious completion of the four lane express way on NH-9 from Hyderabad to Vijayawada which is vital from business and commercial point of view; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to complete the project early to avoid 30 to 40 accidents taking place daily due to heavy traffic?

### **Civil Services Reforms**

\*445. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Civil Services Reforms headed by Shri P.C. Hota has submitted its report to the Union Cabinet Secretary on the 30th July, 2004;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made by the Committee in its report; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

### **Death of lab animals at ITRC, Lucknow**

\*446. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to failure of air conditioning system in June last about 700 lab animals died in the newly constructed modern laboratory of Industrial and Toxicology Research Centre of CSIR at Lucknow;

(b) if so, whether the cause of the

failure of the air-conditioning system has been investigated, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent of financial loss caused to the research centre due to the incident; and

(d) the action taken to prevent such incidents and also against those found negligent in the discharge of their duty in this incident?

### **Release of Indian hostages/captives in Iraq**

†\*447. SHRI PYARELAL KHAN-DELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a state of confusion prevailed regarding release of Indian hostages in Iraq only due to the evasive policy of Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of Indian Nationals are still working in American Military camps as captives;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when Government would bring them back to India;

(d) whether Indian Embassy in Iraq remained a silent spectator in this case; and

(e) if not, the details of action taken by it?

### **Indians in foreign jails**

† \*448. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians lodged in foreign jails, country-wise;

(b) whether any steps are being taken

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

by Government to get them released; and  
(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Delinking of Vadinar area from  
Kandla Port Trust**

\*449. PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:  
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any  
final decision on the long outstanding  
request of the Government of Gujarat to  
delink Vadinar area from the port limits of  
the Kandla Port Trust and return it back to  
the State Government;

(b) if so, the decision taken by  
Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to  
compensate the Government of Gujarat for  
the commercial loss, in case its proposal is  
not acceptable?

**Declaration of certain roads as  
National Highways**

†\*450. SHRI LALIT KISHORE  
CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of  
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under  
consideration to declare the road from  
Sujangarh to Salasar-Sikar-Neem Ka  
Thana-Kotputli-Behrod-Alwar-Nagaur-  
Theeg-Mathura on Ambala-Hissar-Churu-  
Fatehpur-Sujangarh-Nagaur-Jodhpur Pali  
National Highway as a National Highway;

(b) whether there is need to declare the  
road from Kolayal to Mathura as National  
Highway by linking Sujangarh-Mukam-  
Nokha-Kolayal road with the road  
mentioned in part (a) above; and

(c) whether this road would be  
developed as toll road by declaring it a  
National Highway?

**Memorandum from Chief Minister of  
Madhya Pradesh**

†\*451. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN  
SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER  
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of  
Madhya Pradesh had submitted a  
memorandum to Honourable Prime  
Minister wherein main problems of  
Madhya Pradesh have been mentioned;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken  
by the Government in this regard along with  
its present status; and

(c) if no action has been taken so far,  
by when the same would be taken?

**Land for the unemployed**

†\*452. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the  
Minister of AGRO AND RURAL  
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2/3rd part of cultivable  
plain land in the country is lying unused  
with the Government; and

(b) if so, what is the plan of Government  
to provide employment to the unemployed  
persons from out of the said land?

**Agro-based Industries in Uttaranchal**

†\*453. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will  
the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL  
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small and tiny agro  
based industries along with the number of  
persons employed therein in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether Government are aware of

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the fact that a large number of such small cottage and rural industries have been closed down during last few years; and

(c) if so, the number of industries so closed and the number of persons rendered unemployed as a result thereof?

#### **Modernisation of Postal Department**

\*454. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what measures the Department of Posts is taking towards its modernisation;

(b) how optimally the Department of Posts is utilising the V-Sats;

(c) the details of the centres that are covered by V-Sat in the country, State-wise; and

(d) what sort of business the Department of Posts is looking for, apart from regular post and e-post?

#### **India's investment in communication sector abroad**

\*455. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to invest in foreign countries in the communication sector;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed or consultation is in progress with the foreign countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the communication projects of Indian-origin companies in the foreign countries?

#### **Ban on outdoor use of products**

\*456. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:  
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

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

(a) whether a ban exists as of today, on outdoor use of products (based on international standard IEEE 802.11b) for wireless networking and transfer of data between computers;

(b) if so, whether Government consider any merit in continuing such ban; and

(c) if not, by when, Government plan to lift the ban?

#### **Implementation of schemes for reviving projects**

\*457. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of major projects, above Rs. 100 crores, which in terms of the value of investment add up to about Rs. 50,000 crores, have been either stalled or deferred indefinitely in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement and/or modify the schemes so as to utilise the scarce national resources in a more judicious manner for fruitful results?

#### **Disrupted telephones in Pauri Garhwal**

\*458. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the telephone facilities provided in the villages of District Pauri Garhwal remained totally disrupted for long periods during the months of May and June, 2004 despite consumers having made several complaints for smooth services, particularly in Patti Edwal Syun, Pauri Garhwal;

(b) whether it is a fact that Telephone Exchange situated at Gurduri is completely out of order and telephone lines of this exchange are frequently out of service; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action so that villagers get proper benefits of telephone services and ensure good telephone services for remote areas?

#### **Improvement of rural roads**

\*459. DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:  
SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to focus on rural roads and the implementation of the National Highways Development Project envisaged by earlier Government would not be provided much financial assistance;

(b) if so, whether 7300 KM which was to be taken up under Rs. 30,000 crores second phase of NHDP, work on only 596 KMs has been completed;

(c) whether Government propose to improve the rural roads instead of National Highways Development Project; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the total rural roads that would be under taken during 2004-05?

#### **Manpower Export Promotion Council**

\*460. SHRI MOOLCHAND  
MEENA:  
SHRI SUDARSHAN  
AKARAPU:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND  
EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set-up a Manpower Export Promotion Council to regulate hiring practices for overseas jobs;

(b) if so, whether there is proposal to open a nodal office for the Council in Delhi;

(c) whether his Ministry has been asked to set-up a welfare fund for the Indian diaspora in various countries; and

(d) if so, what are other steps Government proposed to take to promote multidimensional welfare of NRI including workers of Gulf countries?

NEW DELHI;

*The 20th August, 2004*  
*Sravana 29, 1926 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

**I N D E X**  
(Ministry-wise)

<b>Prime Minister</b>	: —
<b>Agro and Rural Industries</b>	: 452, 453,
<b>Atomic Energy</b>	: —
<b>Coal and Mines</b>	: —
<b>Communications and Information Technology</b>	: 454, 455, 456, 458,
<b>External Affairs</b>	: 447, 448,
<b>Labour and Employment</b>	: 441, 443, 460,
<b>Non-Resident Indians Affairs</b>	: —
<b>Ocean Development</b>	: —
<b>Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</b>	: 445,
<b>Planning</b>	: 451,
<b>Road Transport and Highways</b>	: 442, 444, 450, 459,
<b>Science and Technology</b>	: 446,
<b>Shipping</b>	: 449,
<b>Small Scale Industries</b>	: —
<b>Space</b>	: —
<b>Statistics and Programme Implementation</b>	: 457.