

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the February 27, 2003/Phalguna 8, 1924 (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

Disinvestment of PSUs

*141. SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of
DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention
has been drawn to the news-item
captioned 'Politics stalled NALCO sale'
which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times',
dated the 2nd November, 2002;

(b) whether disinvestment process of
NALCO, EIL, RCF, Neyveli Lignite
Corporation Limited and BEML are being
delayed, deliberately; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not moving
fast on the disinvestment of the above
PSUs?

Private employment exchanges

†*142. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are
considering grant of permission for

opening of private employment
exchanges;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number
of private employment exchanges are
operating even at present without
Government's permission;

(c) if so, the steps taken by
Government to stop cheating of the
unemployed persons by these private
employment exchanges; and

(d) if no action has been taken, so far,
the reasons therefor?

Payments to extremists by Pakistan High Commission

*143. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan High
Commission and its envoy were held
responsible for making payments for
distribution to extremists;

(b) if so, whether report reveals that a
number of parties including Hurriyat were

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

found in possession of the money paid by the Pakistan High Commission;

(c) whether Government have expelled all such members of the Pakistani High Commission who were held responsible;

(d) if so, whether Pakistan has protested on this issue; and

(e) what steps Government have taken against Pakistan on this issue?

Satyagraha by workers

*144. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA
CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on January 8, 2003 a nation-wide Satyagraha was observed by the workers affiliated to different Central Trade Unions and independent employees federations;

(b) if so, what were their demands; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

Accidents on National Highways

*145. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHAND-
RAIAH :

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that lakhs of innocent people are being killed on the National Highways every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the accidents and deaths that have taken place during the last five years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to prevent such accidents?

Packing of drinking water

*146. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH
LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the implementation of the new standards for packaged drinking water which does not conform to European Standards?

Crisis in sugar industry

*147. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
DR. AKHILESH DAS :

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

(a) whether a high level inter-ministerial meeting was held by the Prime Minister to find a solution to the current crisis in sugar industry; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion which took place and the steps being taken to end the crisis?

Cheap Nepalese vanaspathi

*148. SHRI RUMANDLA
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether he has convened an emergency meeting alongwith the Ministries of Finance, Commerce and Health to look into the onslaught of cheap Nepalese vanaspati putting survival of the Rs. 5,000 crore domestic industry into question;

(b) if so, what was the main agenda of meeting;

(c) whether all the vanaspati units in eastern India have been closed down following Nepalese dumping triggered by Government's policy;

(d) what decision has been taken to meet the situation; and

(e) to what extent this decision has helped in improving the vanaspati units in the country?

High security registration plates

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that after February 28, 2003 purchasers of new vehicles would have to shell out on additional Rs. 1500 for high security registration plates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) on what grounds the new system of number plates had been introduced; and

(d) the number of the companies which have been authorised to manufacture these plates and in what manner these companies have been selected?

Landline telephone connections in Mumbai

*150. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the landline connections of MTNL and other private telephone operators in Mumbai; and

(b) the number of telephone connections disconnected by MTNL in Mumbai from January, 2001 to 31st December, 2002?

Poor telecom network

*151. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecom network in the country is very poor and inadequate for providing phones to rural areas in the country and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the growth during the recent years has been concentrated in urban areas; if so, the details of the teledensity in urban and rural population during the last three years;

(c) whether Karnataka figures poorly in terms of providing access to phones in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to improve phone services in rural areas of the State?

Increase in unemployment

*152. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unemployment has increased in the nineties *vis-a-vis* eighties;

(b) whether it is also a fact that decline in the employment growth pertaining to females has been higher than that of male during the same period; and

(c) what is the action plan to arrest the trend and what are the resources to implement the action plan?

Exploitation of labourers of DMRC

†*153. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the "Rashtriya Sahara" dated the 21st January, 2003 under the caption "Paanch Varshon se Shoshan ka Shikar ho rahe hain D.M.R.C. ke Mazdoor";

(b) if so, the number of hours the workers are made to work everyday by the contractors of the D.M.R.C. alongwith the wages being provided to them every day; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure payment of daily wages @ Rs. 102/- to the workers of the D.M.R.C.?

Allotment of ISD/STD/PCO

†*154. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

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

(a) the number of applications for allotment of ISD/STD/PCO booths pending with his Ministry as on date, State-wise and district-wise;

(b) the details of the PCO/STD/ISD booths allotted during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) by when the pending cases are likely to be cleared?

Arrears of sugarcane growers

*155. DR. AKHILESH DAS :
SHRI AIMADUDDIN
AHMED KHAN
(DURRU):

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

(a) whether cane growers have been agitating over recovery of arrears of their dues amounting to Rs. 11,000 crore from the sugar mills;

(b) if so, the details of the memoranda or representations received from the cane-growers during the past three months; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure payment of their dues?

Calculation of BPL population

*156. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some new

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

methods have been adopted to measure poverty and calculate the number of people Below Poverty Line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of States have raised several questions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

Installation of medical gas pipe line at ESI Hospital in Bangalore

*157. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for installation of medical gas pipe line to start the Cardiothoracic unit of the Employees State Insurance Hospital at Indirapuram, Bangalore, submitted by the State Government is pending with Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when a decision is expected to be taken by Government in this regard?

Women workers in Government sector

*158. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of women employees in Government sector has come down;

(b) the percentage of women at present in PSU banks and other PSUs; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to increase the number of women employees in these organizations?

Sugar buffer stock

*159. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers are lobbying for sugar buffer stock;

(b) if so, the details of their proposals; and

(c) the action proposed by Government on the farmers' suggestions?

Modifications in rice export policy

†*160. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any modifications have been made recently in the rice export policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and percentage of 'broken rice' allowed to be exported; and

(c) the steps taken to make export of Indian rice competitive?

NEW DELHI;
The 21st February, 2003
Phalgun 2, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X (Ministry-wise)

Prime Minister	: —
Agro and Rural Industries	: —
Atomic Energy	: —
Communications and Information Technology	: 150, 151, 154,
Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	: 146, 147, 148, 155, 159, 160,
Development of North Eastern Region	: —
Disinvestment	: 141,
External Affairs	: 143,
Labour	: 142, 144, 152, 153, 157, 158,
Planning	: 156,
Road Transport and Highways	: 145, 149.
Small Scale Industries	: —
Space	: —
Statistics and Programme Implementation	: —