

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for ORAL ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the November 28, 2002/Agrahayana 7, 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

Metro Bus Service in Bangalore

*141. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT
AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka
have submitted a proposal for approval to
introduce Metro Bus Service in
Bangalore; and

(b) if so, what action Government have
taken thereon?

Meeting of foreign ministers

*142. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the informal
meeting in New York, the Indian, Russian
and Chinese foreign ministers have agreed
to meet officially for holding discussions
between the three countries;

(b) if so, whether any date has been
fixed for the meeting;

(c) if so, the agenda fixed for this
meeting; and

(d) to what extent these three countries
have formulated action plan to give a fillip
to their relationship and have agreed to a
concrete plan of action on various issues?

Export performance in IT sector

†*143. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will
the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken
any steps to improve the export
performance in the field of Information
Technology sector;

(b) if so, the details of the
achievements in the field of information
technology, software services and
electronics during the last three years; and

(c) the target fixed to promote export
in these fields and develop computer
hardware manufacturing sector for the
next three years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Contradiction in Labour Commission's report

†*144. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Report of the Labour Commission is contradictory;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while the analysis of Labour Commission are quite right but the recommendations made by the Commission are not based on the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Legislation on drunken driving

*145. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring forward a new legislation or amend the existing laws to provide for deterrent punishment for drunken driving which is the major cause of accidents; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Delay in pension reforms

*146. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intend to delay the Reformed Pension Plan;

(b) whether Government would announce the plan before the next Budget; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Strengthening of PDS infrastructure

*147. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the purpose of strengthening PDS infrastructure, trucks/vans are also provided to make available essential commodities in rural/hilly remote areas;

(b) whether Government subsidise the cost of such vehicles;

(c) if so, the amount paid during the last three years; and

(d) the number of such trucks/vans and in whose custody Centre/State/Union Territory Governments these vehicles are being maintained?

Funds for maintenance of National Highways

*148. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds available for repair, maintenance of National Highways, their widening and construction of additional highways for 2002-03;

(b) the demand received from various States, State-wise, particularly from Gujarat for 2002-03;

(c) the allocation of funds, State-wise; and

(d) the brief particulars of the programme of action for the year 2002-03, State-wise, particularly, for Gujarat?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Trade agreements between India and European Union

*149. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited European Union in the month of October, 2002 and had a discussion on Kashmir; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether India and E.U. differ on Kashmir;

(c) what are the other subjects discussed and the agreements signed during the Prime Minister's visit;

(d) whether the E.U. had asked India to hasten project approvals;

(e) whether India and E.U. have set an ambitious target of Euro 35 billion bilateral trade by 2005 which would be stepped up to Euro 50 billion by 2008; and

(f) if so, to what extent India and E.U. have decided to improve trade relations?

New cultural centres

*150. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to promote India's foreign policy, Government have since decided to open new cultural centres;

(b) if so, the numbers thereof and the places where these would be set up;

(c) by when these would be operational; and

(d) how many cultural centres are already functioning all over the world alongwith the locations thereof?

Tripartite talks on labour panel recommendations

*151. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindu' dated the 11th November, 2002 under the caption "Government urged to hold tripartite talks on labour panel recommendations";

(b) whether the State Insurance and Provident Fund Schemes would be extended to unorganized sector;

(c) whether minimum wages would be determined in the light of the recommendations of the 15th session of Indian Labour Conference and Apex Court ruling in Raptakos Brett case;

(d) whether a separate national level legislation would be enacted for agricultural workers covering workers in farming, horticulture, sericulture and other related sectors;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the detailed reasons?

Export of surplus sugar

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

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

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution has directed Government to increase the export of sugar as more than 115 lakh tonnes of sugar was lying in various godowns and warehouses in the country;

(b) whether availability of sugar during the last financial year was more than 270

lakh tonnes, out of which the internal consumption was only to the tune of about 160 lakh tonnes;

(c) if so, what were the reasons for not exporting the extra sugar; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement the suggestions?

Discussion on bilateral issues in SAARC

*153. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that regional organisations like SAARC, instead of focusing attention on regional issues as per their original charter, are raking up bilateral issues, and thus its existence for 20 years has not contributed significantly towards meaningful regional co-operation; and

(b) if so, whether Government would ensure that the ensuing SAARC meet in Pakistan in January, 2003 does not discuss any bilateral issues and a real beginning is made towards regional co-operation as per its original charter?

Training of drivers

*154. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing trend of road accidents in our country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to train drivers to international standard to decrease the number of accidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Indian Overseas Workers Welfare Fund

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

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision on constitution of the Indian Overseas Workers Welfare Fund to safeguard interest of the Indian overseas workers going overseas for employment on a contractual basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Rag-Pickers' rights

*156. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether High Court of Delhi has issued a notice to the Centre on the rag-pickers' rights in the Capital;

(b) what is the status of implementation of the various laws to curb child labour and improve plight of rag-pickers in the Capital; and

(c) the details of the children deployed in this illegal trade in the Capital?

Extension of Indian Exclusive Economic Zone

*157. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new legal concept developed in 1994 provides for the redefinition of the outer continental

margin area of coastal States that could extend beyond 200 nautical miles for some countries;

(b) whether Government have prepared data claiming extended continental margin beyond the present 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone upto 350 nautical miles; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the data collected for submission to U.N. Commission on the limits of the Continental Shelf?

Amendment of Warehousing Act, 1962

*158. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received for amending the Warehousing Act, 1962, to enable the State Government to enter into a joint venture not only with the Central Warehousing Corporation but also with other private people to bring in strategic strength of capital and technology; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have contemplated in this regard?

NEW DELHI;
The 22nd November, 2002
Agrahayana 1, 1924 (Saka)

Status of domestic workers

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

(a) whether Government have decided to frame a law to safeguard rights of the domestic workers and to accord them the status of workmen;

(b) if so, by when a legislation in the matter is likely to be brought before Parliament; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Talks with Pakistan

*160. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Indian stand on the next year's SAARC Summit;

(b) the India's position about holding talks with Pakistan on cross-border terrorism;

(c) whether Government have planning to hold talks in the future before the SAARC Summit with Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X
(Ministry-wise)

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