

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 29, 2001/Agrahayana 8, 1923 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;
Communications; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution;
External Affairs; Information Technology; 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

Setting up of Postal Tariff Panel

*161. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set
up a separate postal tariff panel in order to
phase out subsidies on postal items;

(b) whether it is a fact that during the last
fiscal year the cost of providing postal
articles and services continued to rise but
even then, Government incurred a deficit of
about Rs. 1652 crores;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) what steps Government are taking to
stimulate cost effective viable operations in
the postal sector; and

(e) by when such a postal tariff panel is
likely to come in existence?

Issue of Pakistani visa to Indian journalists

*162. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA
NAHATA: Will the Minister of
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have
approached the Government of Pakistan on

the issue of granting visa to the Indian
journalists to cover Afghanistan
developments;

(b) if so, the response of Pakistan
thereto; and

(c) the number of Indian media persons
(both print and electronic) who have been
issued visa?

Paddy and rice procurement in Chhattisgarh

†*163. SHRI LAKKHIRAM
AGARWAL: Will the Minister of
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to
state the quantum of paddy and rice
procured by the Food Corporation of
India and other agencies of the State
Government in Chhattisgarh during the
last two years, year-wise?

Telecom services in Tripura

*164. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the
Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up
a time-bound action plan to improve and
strengthen Telecom services in Tripura;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether internal services have been extended to all the districts and the sub-divisional headquarters of the State; if not, by when this work is likely to be completed; and

(c) by when the cellular mobile phone service and paging service are likely to be extended to Agartala?

Funds allocated under PMRY and PMGY to H.P.

†*165. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise and the constituency-wise amounts allocated to Himachal Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana during the year 2000-01;

(b) the details of the work-wise amount allocated togetherwith the works for which the same have been allocated out of the said amount; and

(c) the amount approved and spent on roads, district-wise?

Special Social Security Schemes for retrenched workers

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

(a) whether Government have evolved specially designed scheme for retrenched workers from various sectors till they get alternative employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to prepare special social security schemes for such retrenched workers?

Promotion of Agro and Rural Industries

†*167. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various schemes of his Ministry for promoting Agro and Rural Industries in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Jharkhand;

(b) the details of subsidies being extended by Government under various head; and

(c) the steps taken to promote rural industries in UP and Jharkhand in future?

Committee to monitoring of IT and Software Industries

*168. SHRI P. N. SIVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any high level Committee to monitor and guide the software and IT industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have given adequate representation to the States like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka keeping in view the size of the IT industry and their contribution to the total production and exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Grants-in aid to professors of I.I.T.

*169. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether a grants-in-aid amounting to crores of rupees has been given by the KVIC to various professors of I.I.T. Delhi for various projects/studies in various fields since January, 1996 onwards;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating name of each project, the name of each professor to whom such grants-in-aid had been given and present status of each project; and

(c) the manner in which Government benefited from the said projects?

Communication Centres' offices in Manipur

*170. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Communication Centres' offices in Manipur;

(b) whether there is any proposal for opening of more communication offices in the State;

(c) the reasons for delay in opening of telephone offices at Wangoi although its building has been completed; and

(d) by when the above office would be opened?

Khurdha-Bolangir Super Highway

*171. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to construct Khurdha-Bolangir super highway in Orissa with World Bank aid has been pending with Government since long;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in getting World Bank Funds for the Super Highway Project; and

(c) the steps taken for early consideration of the proposal?

Cellular mobile services of BSNL

*172. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all formalities for procurement and setting-up of the Cellular Mobile services by BSNL as the licensed third operator was completed by August, September, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the purchase orders should have been issued by now;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay and by when the same would be issued;

(d) whether the delay suffered so far is a result of any extraneous pressure, possibly from the entities who would be benefited from such a delay; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Pending projects

†*173. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got completed a number of projects out of those which were under implementation during March, 1998;

(b) if so, the number of projects which have been completed during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) the number of projects not completed by March, 2001; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the number of new projects undertaken during the above period alongwith the Ministries to which these projects belong to?

Failure of PDS

*174. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that PDS is a failure in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for such failure and the steps taken by Government to improve the system;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce income generating schemes for poor in place of PDS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Attacks on Indian fishermen

*175. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the matter regarding the repeated attacks on the Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy, with the Government of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken to prevent such type of atrocities by Sri Lankan Navy?

Improvement of PDS

†*176. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene being distributed per unit under Public Distribution System and the categories to whom the said items are being provided at present;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme to improve Public Distribution System;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Next SAARC summit

*177. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two-day third special session of the standing committee of the Foreign Secretaries of seven SAARC nations concluded its deliberations on 10th August, 2001, without reaching any agreement on the next summit meeting;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the committee could not endorse Nepal's suggestion to hold the 11th summit in Kathmandu from December 28 to 30, 2001;

(d) if so, whether any dates have been fixed; and

(e) if not, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Modification in labour laws

†*178. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modify labour laws;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps, so far; and

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

Import of sugar

*179. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to stop import of sugar in view of heavy sugar stocks in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the contract of sugar import with the countries from where sugar is being imported, presently?

Constitutional amendment to restore the seniority of SC/ST employees

*180. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government announced its resolve to bring about a constitutional amendment to restore the seniority of SCs and STs employees on promotion as it existed before issuing DOPT OM No. 20011/1/96-Estt.(D), dated the 30th January, 1997, in the Convention of SC/ST MPs on 5th December, 1999; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and the progress made in bringing about the proposed constitutional amendment?

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd November, 2001
Agrahayana 2, 1923 (Saka)

R. C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

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