

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the March 1, 2002/ Phalgun 10, 1923 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and
Forests; Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development; Ocean
Development; Railways; Science and Technology; Steel;
Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions—155

Upgrading the quality of foodgrains

156. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) what are the various surplus crops
which were available for exports during
the last year;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian
foodgrains are graded as substandard in
the international market;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken so far, for
producing quality foodgrains?

Cattle population in Orissa

157. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that
Orissa has lost a huge cattle population
due to three consecutive natural
calamities;

(b) if so, whether Government have
assessed the total losses in terms of meat,
milk and other animal products during the
last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have any
agenda for increasing the cattle population
in Orissa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Industrial status to agricultural sector

158. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government have a
proposal to give industrial status to the
agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Co-operative societies in Arunachal Pradesh

159. SHRI NABAM REBIA : Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased
to state:

(a) the number of co-operative
societies functioning at present in
Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) the details of financial assistance
provided by Government to them during
the last three years; and

(c) the details of items, alongwith their quantities, distributed in the State during that period?

Incentives to farmers

160. SHRI NABAM REBIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce any incentives to agricultural farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Poultry organisations in Andhra Pradesh

161. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that none of the Central Poultry Development Organisations set up by Government is located in Andhra Pradesh, though the State leads in poultry farming in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for ignoring the State; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

Agricultural Technology Information Centres in Punjab

†162. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise details of Agricultural Technology Information Centres set up in Punjab;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred by Government during the last three years for the purpose in the State; and

(c) the necessary action taken by Government to impart training to farmers in the State?

Assistance to Andhra Pradesh for floods and cyclone

163. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1967, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th December, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Government have considered the report of the Central Team which visited Andhra Pradesh to assess the damage caused by floods and cyclone;

(b) if so, the Central assistance given to that State in view of the damage caused by floods and cyclone last year;

(c) the additional assistance demanded by the State; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

Integration of disaster mitigation and developmental planning in Gujarat

164. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, having taken stock of relief and rehabilitation measures for a year in the earthquake ravaged Gujarat, there is an urgent need to integrate disaster mitigation with development planning which should include the needs of the most vulnerable sections of the society;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of evolving such an integrated programme; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Diversification of crops, livestock and fisheries in A.P.

165. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has approached the Union Government to extend full support and provide funds for its efforts to diversify crops, livestock and fishery enterprises, to match the emerging demand patterns;

(b) if so, the details of the requirements of the State in this regard; and

(c) whether necessary funds have been released; if so, when and if not, by when the same are expected to be released?

Crop damage due to unseasonal rain in Andhra Pradesh

166. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unseasonal rain in the first week of January, 2002 has adversely affected and damaged the Groundnuts, Paddy, Bengal gram, Tobacco, Maize and Cotton crops in several districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether the hailstorms also inflicted heavy damage to crops in many districts;

(c) whether Central Government were approached by the State Government for help to meet the situation and provide relief to farmers; and

(d) if so, what is Government's response in this regard?

Steering Group on Agriculture

167. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether report of the Steering Group on Agriculture and Allied Sectors has since been received;

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations, especially with regard to retaining 500 million youths to the farm sector;

(c) whether the committee has also proposed a scheme for development of waste land in a big way all over the country and warned Government of water shortage, emerging as a major issue in the near future; and

(d) if so, what is the decision of Government and the steps being taken on each of the recommendation?

Assistance to drought affected States

168. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to States affected by severe drought in the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted a proposal for financial assistance to contain severe drought situation in the State in 2001-2002; and

(c) if so, whether Government have agreed to release any amount to the State, apart from State's entitled CRF; if so, the details thereof?

Rehabilitation package for cooperative credit structure

169. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken an initiative to finalize a rehabilitation package for revamping the credit

cooperative structure; if so, the details of the package;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has recommended any proposal under this package for consideration of Government; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

Policy for agricultural extension

170. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are finalising a policy framework for agricultural extension;

(b) if so, whether the extension policy is likely to be operationalised during the Tenth Five Year Plan through the Centrally-sponsored scheme of Extension Support to States;

(c) if so, by when this policy is likely to be made applicable; and

(d) to what extent it would be helpful?

Procurement of cotton in Gujarat

171. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no notable purchase of cotton in Gujarat, even though the prices range below the support price;

(b) whether developed countries like America are paying subsidy to farmers upto 40 per cent of the cost;

(c) whether there are no buyers in Vidarbha area of Maharashtra and there was a *rasta roko andolan*;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to protect the interest of farmers?

Bar on copra procurement by co-operative societies in Kerala

172. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some co-operative societies in Kerala were debarred from procurement of copra as they were charge-sheeted for involvement in corruption deals related to copra procurement;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the names of the societies;

(c) whether Government are aware that the State Government included these societies in the procurement area again; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Relief and rehabilitation of victims of Gujarat earthquake

173. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian People's Tribunal on Environment and Human Rights, which inquired into the relief and rehabilitation work for Gujarat earthquake has passed severe structures on the functioning of the Gujarat Government for its apathy and discrimination against the minority community in carrying out the relief and rehabilitation programme;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

**Subsidy for wheat and paddy
producing countries**

†174. SHRI RAM JETH-
MALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America
and other wheat and paddy producing
countries of the world are giving such
amounts of subsidy for their agricultural
produces which are violating the
conditions prescribed by the World Trade
Organization;

(b) if so, the details of Government's
information in this regard;

(c) whether Government have provided
such information to the officials of World
Trade Organization and requested them
to take action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Fisheries training and extension units

175. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will
the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fisheries
training and extension units sanctioned
since 1998 all over the country and the
amount released in this regard to various
States, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether Karnataka Government
has requested for such units; and

(c) if so, the number of units
sanctioned to the State?

Corporatisation of agriculture

176. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will
the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention
has been drawn to the news article which
appeared in the Indian Express dated the
9th January, 2002, under the caption, "Our
future is in the forests—corporatisation
of agriculture, as some think tanks
suggest, will completely ravage our
economy"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's
response thereto and what corrective steps
have been taken or are proposed to be
taken in this regard?

**Pending agricultural projects of
Gujarat**

177. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-
SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Comprehensive
Agriculture Development Projects of
Gujarat like Ecological Restoration,
Reclamation of Alkali Soil, Coastal
Salinity Ingress Prevention Scheme are
pending with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these projects are likely
to be cleared?

**Increasing the minimum support
price for Tur**

178. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased
to state:

(a) what is the minimum support price
fixed by Government per quintal for Tur
grown in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government
has sought hike in the minimum support
price for Tur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the
action, if any, taken in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Financial assistance to Karnataka for drought

179. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned/released by Government to Karnataka to take up drought relief works during 2001;

(b) the number of taluks in the State declared as drought affected during 2001;

(c) the amount of additional grant sought for by the State Government to take up drought relief works; and

(d) the reasons for not sanctioning the required amount to that State to tackle the drought effectively?

Small and marginal farmers

† 180. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ascertained the number of small and marginal farmers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas of land available with such farmers for cultivation, State-wise?

Subsidies to MDFVL

181. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mother Dairy Fruit and Vegetable Limited (MDFVL) is a public limited company, with reported turnover of Rs. 900 crores, and is manufacturing high-end consumer items such as ice cream:

(b) whether MDFVL is a profit making entity and no longer qualifies for subsidies such as subsidized rental for its booths in the National Capital Region; and

(c) whether it has been considered inviting competitive bidding for shelf space at the Mother Dairy booths for generating additional revenues?

Permission to trading institutions for agriculture sector

† 182. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission to major Indian and foreign trading companies to function in various sectors related to agriculture;

(b) if so, the total number of such Indian as well as foreign companies which are functioning in the agriculture related sectors; and

(c) the amount of domestic and foreign capital investment made by the each such company?

Welfare of vegetable/fruit growers in Himachal Pradesh

183. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for the welfare of vegetable/fruit growers in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated, district-wise, during 2001-2002; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Fishing harbour facilities at ports

184. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned for fishing harbour facilities at major and minor ports since 1998-99, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has requested to consider its proposal under the scheme; and

(c) if so, whether Government have approved the proposal?

Cess on chemical fertilizers and pesticides

185. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to levy one per cent cess on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, in order to ameliorate the conditions of farmers; if so, the details in this regard;

(b) what is the broad objective in this regard; and

(c) by when this tax is likely to be levied?

Closure of PPL Plant

186. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the public Sector Paradip Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) located at Paradip in Orissa, has been ordered by the Orissa High Court to close the plant from 15th February, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken for controlling pollution,

as directed by the Pollution Control Board, so as to reopen the Plant?

Revision of Pay Scales in PPL

187. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orissa High Court has directed the Union Government to consider the recommendations of the Chairman and Managing Director of Paradip Phosphates Ltd. (PPL), for revision of pay scales of employees within three months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken thereon?

Assam Gas Cracker Project

188. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the conditionalities yet to be complied with for Assam Gas Cracker Project and action taken to sort out the matter;

(b) the target date set for final decision;

(c) whether promoter has been asked to go ahead with the reduced amount of gas on account of failure of the Oil Companies to fulfil the gas supply agreement;

(d) if so, the response thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Sale of drugs at higher rates by Johnson & Johnson

† 189. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that a case of causing loss to common consumer and Government to the tune of almost Rs. fifty crore has been registered by the CBI in January, 2002 against Johnson & Johnson, a famous pharmaceutical company, for selling drugs on higher rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government against the company?

Revival and expansion of fertilizer units

190. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to revival of sick fertilizer units and expansion of the existing units;

(b) the steps taken in that direction during Ninth Five Year Plan and the programme drawn up thereon for Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any effort is being made to achieve self-sufficiency in fertilizers;

(d) if so, the achievement made in that regard in Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the projection made for production of fertilizers in Tenth Five Year Plan, both in public and private sectors?

Consumption norms and recoveries from urea manufacturing units

191. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had issued a notification on 5th November, 2001 revising input consumption norms, per ton of urea and imposed heavy recoveries on urea manufacturing units; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that a large number of fertilizer units have been facing closure on account of this notification as they are not in a position to bear the burden of such heavy recovery; and

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw this notification and if not, the reasons therefor?

New drug policy

192. SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether Government have formulated a new drug policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be announced;

(d) from which date it is being implemented;

(e) the steps taken in that regard;

(f) whether any safeguards have been provided therein to control the rising prices of medicines and pharmaceutical products, particularly life-saving drugs; and

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

Exposure to hazardous chemicals around Union Carbide

193. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scientific

survey conducted by Green Peace has shown that the residents around Union Carbide of India Ltd. (UCIL) are still exposed to the hazardous chemicals and are suffering from various health problems;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what protective measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

Dismantling of Drug Price Control Order

194. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to dismantle the Drug Price Control Order (DPCO);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any memorandum against the said decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is likely to result in prices of drugs, including life-saving drugs, spiralling beyond the reach of the common man; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

Amount deposited by drug companies with NPPA

† 195. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2775, given in the Rajya Sabha on 17th August, 2001 and state:

(a) the names of drug companies and the amount deposited by them with National Pharmaceutical Pricing

Authority (NPPA) till 31st January, 2002, on account of over-charging for drugs; and

(b) by when the entire amount would be recovered?

Manufacture and consumption of indigenous urea

196. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the share of Andhra Pradesh in the manufacture of indigenous urea in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the consumption of urea in the State during the same period, year-wise; and

(c) the details of steps proposed to be taken by Government to encourage indigenous production of urea in Andhra Pradesh and in the rest of the country?

Outlay for urea projects

197. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total outlay for new projects and expansion of the existing urea projects of PSUs/Cooperative Societies during last year;

(b) the amount utilised till date;

(c) whether the amount was un-utilised; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Effect of Alumina Projects on wildlife

198. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) what would be the effect of the proposed setting up of the Alumina Projects in the Kashipur block of Rayagada District in Orissa, from the point of view of wildlife;

(b) whether any study has been carried out by the wildlife wing of the State Forest Department of Central Government, on the presence of wildlife in proposed areas, which are being brought under the Alumina Projects;

(c) whether the projects would adversely affect the tiger and elephant movement corridors, which are so vital for conservation of wildlife in Orissa; and

(d) whether Government have been apprised of the matter in this regard, if not, why?

Tiger conservation by NGOs

199. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what role the Non-Governmental Organisations play in tiger conservation in India; and

(b) which are the twenty major such organisations based in India?

NGO in wildlife conservation in Orissa

200. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Non-Governmental Organisations working in Orissa in the field of wildlife and nature conservation;

(b) the names of such twenty major organisations;

(c) whether Orissa Government award any organisation every year; and

(d) whether any plan exists to guide such organisations, so that better results are achieved in the field of wildlife conservation in India?

Wildlife trafficking

201. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of incidents are often reported in newspapers regarding trafficking in wildlife, if so, whether Government have taken any concrete steps to stop the rise in wildlife trafficking in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of persons arrested for wildlife trafficking since January, 2001?

Migratory birds in Chilka Lake

202. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nalabana Island in Chilka Lake in Orissa has been a favourite spot for 165 species of migratory birds, including international species, specially during every winter;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only 15 per cent out of 80 per cent of birds visitors have flocked the island this time;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to make Nalabana a favourite spot for inter-continental species of migratory birds?

**Pollution in Yamuna between
Wazirabad and Okhla**

203. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi is the fourth most polluted city in the world and the river Yamuna bed between Wazirabad and Okhla is having most polluted stretch;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what immediate and stringent measures are being taken to check and improve the pollution standard in the city?

**Removal of River Princess from
Candolins Beach**

204. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 284, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 2001 and state:

(a) whether River Princess, a ship, lying on the shores of Goa coastline has been removed;

(b) if not, whether there is any conspiracy between the owner and Government for non-removal of ship;

(c) if not, why Government are helpless in removing the ship; and

(d) by when the ship is expected to be removed?

**Cultivation of Bt Cotton using
Navbharat 151 seeds**

205. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the benefits offered by Bt Cotton, as compared to other hybrid varieties;

(b) whether standing cotton crop cultivated using the Navbharat 151 seeds in Gujarat was destroyed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the final decision taken in the matter?

**Restriction on production and sale of
Bt Cotton**

206. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are restrictions on Bt Cotton and on production and sale of its seeds;

(b) whether Government or any Government agency has issued any instructions to cotton producing States for destroying or not cultivating Bt Cotton and for not producing Bt Cotton seeds;

(c) whether any State is giving conditional permission for research or for any such purpose; and

(d) whether such cotton is being cultivated in China, America and some other countries, without any kind of restriction?

Birds Bazaar

207. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware to Bird Bazaars being organised in Delhi and other cities in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for which Government have not been able to prevent such Bazaars; and

(c) the reasons for which the steps taken by Government in this regard have proved ineffective?

New breed of Bt. Cotton

208. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Union Government to give permission to grow Bt Cotton by farmers;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the Agricultural University in Karnataka has invented a new breed in this regard;

(c) whether permission has been given to grow Bt Cotton by farmers in that State;

(d) if not, when would it be given; and

(e) the estimated area in the State where this Bt Cotton would be grown?

Loan for effluent treatment plants

†209. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to advance loans on easy instalments to industrial units, for installation of effluent treatment plants conforming to environment protection norms;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in this regard, so far; and

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

Performance of Pollution Control Boards

210. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an indepth study has been made of the findings of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its recent report, highlighting the dismal performance of the Central and State Pollution Control Boards, especially those relating to prevention and control of pollution of water bodies in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details of steps initiated to sensitise and streamline the functioning of Pollution Control Boards, to overcome various inadequacies/discrepancies and achieve their objectives, especially those relating to implementation of the Water Act, 1974, to help provide safe drinking water?

Punishment for cruelty to wild animals

†211. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for drastic punishment to those who commit cruelty against wild animals;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered this demand, so far; and

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

Coastal Zone Management Authority in A.P.

212. DR. DASARINARAYANARAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Coastal Zone Management Authority has been established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what functions have been assigned to this Authority and what have been its achievements so far, in the coastal areas of the State; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons for establishing such an Authority in Andhra Pradesh?

National food processing policy

213. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to formulate a new national food processing policy, to increase the level of processing from the present two per cent to ten per cent, by the end of the decade;

(b) if so, the total investment needed for this propose;

(c) whether Government are thinking of inviting investment in the food processing industry from the MNCs or private partners, for meeting the domestic requirements as well as for exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Polytechnic and vocational institutions in rural areas

214. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for introducing polytechnic and vocational institutions in rural India;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to higher fee structures, the poor and meritorious students are unable to get into such institutions; and

(c) if so, the measures taken to provide technical education to the poor students during the last three years?

Yoga training for teachers

215. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) since when the scheme to establish Yoga Centres in different parts of the country, for training the teachers has been in force;

(b) how many proposals have been approved for such Yoga Centres during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001, till date; and

(c) what is the amount of grant sanctioned to each institution referred to in part (b) above, State-wise and year-wise?

Vacant post of Vice-Chancellor in Assam Central University

216. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Vice-Chancellor in the Assam Central University at Silchar is lying vacant for long;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the appointment is likely to be made?

Mismanagement at Silchar Engineering College

217. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that affairs of the Regional College of Engineering at

Silchar are in a State of utter mismanagement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether an enquiry was instituted against the college management sometime back; if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof;

(d) by when the report of the inquiry is likely to be received; and

(e) what steps are proposed to be taken to restore normalcy in the functioning of the college?

Resentment about revision of History text books

218. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the on-going resentment in the academic circles in the country with regard to revision of History text books by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), prescribed for students at Secondary and Senior Secondary levels;

(b) whether a dominant section of the academic community has expressed reservations about the revised syllabus which, according to them, has failed to stand upto academic scrutiny, if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that the books conform to an objective standard, without factual error or bias?

Scholars writing History books

219. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI ABDUL GAIYUR QURESHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of scholars who have been assigned the work of writing History books for students of schools, following the CBSE pattern of senior secondary education, being prepared by NCERT, as per new syllabus;

(b) what are the credentials of each of them; and

(c) the reasons and the rationale of displacing the earlier authors?

Errors in History text books of NCERT

220. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Glaring errors in new History syllabi", reported in the Hindustan Times dated 23rd January, 2002;

(b) if so, whether Government had declared that the NCERT textbooks would be vetted by the academicians;

(c) if so, whether the new syllabi contains glaring errors and are politically motivated; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to review their decision; if not, the reasons therefor?

Subsistence allowance to suspended Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers

221. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers in Bhopal and Jabalpur regions, placed under suspension during 1999 and 2000, have not been paid any amount as subsistence allowance from the dates of their suspension;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether departmental inquiries are also being conducted without paying them the essential subsistence allowance; and

(d) if so, the rationale and legality thereof?

Exploitation of women

†222. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated by Government for strengthening financial position of women of the country, particularly rural women, by providing employment opportunities and preventing exploitation against them; and

(b) the details of necessary action taken by Government for effective implementation of these schemes?

Primary education in rural areas

†223. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of education policies made so far since independence of the country, alongwith the recommendations made under the said policies, for imparting elementary education to all the children of rural areas;

(b) the details of necessary action taken by Government for implementing the said recommendations;

(c) to what extent Government have achieved success in this regard; and

(d) the present policy of Government with regard to imparting elementary education to all the children of age group of 6—14 years of the country?

Expert committee to review education policy

224. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to formulate an expert committee to review the present education policy;

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

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

National plan for widows

225. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a national plan for widows who are part of the society but are being discriminated against and marginalised; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have made any survey of the estimated widows abandoned by their families in Ashrams, and are subjected to a strict dress and diet codes and economic deprivation;

(c) whether a global meet on widows was held in February, 2002 in New Delhi

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to draw attention towards their exploitation; and

(d) if so, the subjects discussed, the decisions taken and the action being taken by Government on the recommendations/decisions?

Working women's hostel in Punjab

†226. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of working women's hostel in operation in Punjab, district-wise;

(b) the quantum of amounts issued to the State Government under the head during the last three years;

(c) whether new hostels are likely to be set up in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Kendriya Vidyalayas in Punjab

†227. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of Kendriya Vidyalayas opened so far in Punjab and the locations thereof, district-wise;

(b) which districts in the State are devoid of the facility of Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(c) whether Government are considering to open Kendriya Vidyalayas in any part of Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Information and communication facilities in universities

228. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of universities not yet equipped with information and communication technology facilities, for teaching and training; and

(b) the action proposed to introduce more such education and training institutions to popularise information technology and communication technology, throughout the country?

Evaluation criteria for recruitment of KV teachers

229. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of evaluation criteria in vogue for shortlisting of applications for recruitment of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas during 1985-86 sessions, category-wise; and

(b) on which dates these criteria has since been amended, alongwith the details and notifications thereof, each time?

Operation Black Board Scheme in Assam

230. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have decided to continue the Operation Black Board (OBB) Scheme;

(b) if so, the status of teachers already appointed in Assam;

(c) the amount sanctioned and released during the last three years, year-wise, and the reasons for not receiving salary by teachers appointed under this scheme in that State;

(d) whether Government would ensure continuation of service of already appointed teachers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Welfare schemes for women in Andhra Pradesh

231. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of women welfare schemes under implementation;

(b) the details of voluntary organisations getting grants from Government for the welfare of women in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the criteria for sanctioning such grants; and

(d) what are Government's observations on the performance of voluntary organisations in implementing welfare schemes in Andhra Pradesh?

Incidence of rape and child abuse

232. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of rape and child abuse are on the increase in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken to amend the existing laws and make provision for stringent action, to curb these incidents?

Decline in results of KVs in Jaipur region

†233. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a few Kendriya Vidyalayas of Jaipur region have shown a steep downfall in the annual, domestic and local results in 2000-2001;

(b) if so, whether it has made a record or any other Kendriya Vidyalaya has shown even lower percentage of results;

(c) whether any disciplinary action has been initiated/is likely to be initiated by the Sangathan/Government against the principals responsible for the lapse;

(d) if so, the details of Vidyalaya-wise disciplinary action taken including Kendriya Vidyalaya, Nazeerabad, if not, the rationale therefor; and

(e) whether the Principal has been held responsible for such decline; if so, the outcome thereof?

Kendriya Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi in Bhopal region

234. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount collected in each of the Kendriya Vidyalayas of Bhopal region, in the name of Vidyalayas Vikas Nidhi, during the last three years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of heads/items under/on which these amounts have been spent, Vidyalaya-wise;

(c) whether these receipts and expenditures have been subjected to audit by CAG;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Purohitya Pathyakarma

235. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the factual position about the Purohitya Pathyakarma, reported in the Times of India dated the 3rd February, 2002;

(b) whether there is a serious move to introduce such a course; if so, what would be its various features; and

(c) how would it fit into rest of the faculty studies?

Reforms in schooling system

236. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report captioned, "Kids under Stress: The flipside of great expectations", which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 16th January, 2002, regarding suicide by an eight year old who refused to return to the residential school after the vacations;

(b) if so, whether Government have done study of the present schooling and examination system which, it is believed, caused a lot of stress on the child's mind; and

(c) what reforms, if any, are proposed to be made in the current schooling and examination system?

Withdrawal of manuscripts by ICHR

237. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICHR had withdrawn the manuscripts of a volume under the Freedom of India project;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof;

(c) whether ICHR has decided to shelve the project altogether;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the details of action taken to facilitate publication?

Changes in History syllabus

238. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NCERT has drawn up a new frame work of curriculum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the comparative details in tabular form of the changes in the History syllabus for each class for which these changes have been proposed along with the rationale for such changes?

Schools affiliated to CBSE

239. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, which did not fulfil the area requirements within the Union Territory of Delhi and outside Delhi but falling within the NCR, indicating how far the area requirements were relaxed in each case and on what grounds; and

(b) the number and details of applications pending with the Board seeking affiliation, with lesser area relaxations than those to whom affiliation had been granted with highest area relaxations and the reasons for not granting them affiliation?

Reshaping courses of Management and Bio-technology

240. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is preparing policy framework to reshape engineering and technology post-graduate education and research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it would be announced;

(d) the criteria to be followed to discontinue and/or restructure such courses, the specific of newly emerging areas of study identified for inclusion in the new programmes;

(e) whether UGC and other engineering and technology higher bodies/institutes are being consulted; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether management studies, bio-technology, course are also being

reshaped, to suit society's requirements, if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor?

Committee to change schools syllabus

241. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to change the existing syllabus of the schools education; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have appointed any Committee to study the changes in the existing syllabus; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Curtailing the summer vacation of schools

242. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to curtail summer vacations of school children from the next year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a proper study has been made by Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

CBI raid on Kendriya Vidyalaya Principal's office in Bhopal

243. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:
SHRI ABDUL GAIYUR QURESHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CBI had raided the office of Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 in Bhopal in October, last year; and

(b) if so, what have been its findings?

Advance payment to transferred KV teachers

†244. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for advance payment on administrative transfer of Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers;

(b) whether Government/Sangthan are aware that Principals in many schools don't make advance payment to teachers despite repeated requests and such complaints have been received;

(c) if so, the details and the rationale thereof;

(d) whether huge amount is required on transfer on all India basis; if so, who is responsible for the amount on non-compliance of orders on non-payment of advance; and

(e) whether services of an employee can be terminated if officers don't give money; if so, the reasons therefor?

Pass percentage of XIIth standard

†245. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the number of students who qualify the XIIth standard examination, out of the total number of

students taking admission in the 1st standard;

(b) if so, the percentage of students who pass the XIIth standard examination, out of the total number of students taking admission in the 1st standard at the national level; and

(c) the names of States having maximum as well as minimum percentage in this regard?

Management of Government run schools

†246. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any review regarding management of Government run schools, the facilities available to students, teacher-student relation and reasons for dropping out schools in between;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken for proper functioning of these schools?

Burden of books

†247. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the concern expressed by specialists regarding incidence of sickness among students due to increasing load of books, particularly the students of primary and middle levels;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to reduce the increasing load of books on students; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the action plan prepared or steps taken by Government in this regard and the results achieved therefrom?

Self-sufficiency for universities

248. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force on education has recommended to Government to reduce the funding for universities and make them to adopt the route of self-sufficiency;

(b) if so, the details of main recommendations made by the task force;

(c) whether Government propose to facilitate participation of Non-Governmental Organisations in education, within the framework of a national system of education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the policy formulated by Government in this regard?

Recruitment in Sanskrit Colleges

†249. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of teaching and non-teaching staff for each Sanskrit College, according to the new curriculum;

(b) whether Government have issued orders for appointment of staff in all the Sanskrit Colleges; and

(c) if so, the category-wise details thereof?

Transfers in KVS by Chairman/Vice-Chairman

†250. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH
OJHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government/Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan have recently taken a decision, authorising the Chairman and Senior Vice-Chairman of the Sangathan to order transfers in more than hundred cases, by relaxing the transfer guidelines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Government interference in minority run schools

251. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has given judgement that Government cannot interfere in minority run school admissions;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government are going to change the required laws in this case?

Sports and physical education system

252. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to make sports and physical education integral parts of our education system; and

(b) if so, by when and what steps are being taken to boost the playing facilities for students?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

UGC norms for foreign universities

†253. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign universities are extracting fees from students by opening their centres in different cities of the country;

(b) whether foreign universities are working under norms established by UGC;

(c) whether there is any provision to regulate the fee for foreign degrees; and

(d) whether there is any provision so that fascination for foreign degrees could be removed from among the Indian students?

Freezing the number of teaching and non-teaching employees in K.V.S.

254. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) on which dates the orders to freeze the number of teaching, non-teaching employees in Kendriya Vidyalayas and regional and headquarters offices were issued during the preceding three years and the details of the issuing Authority/Officer;

(b) the category-wise number of the teaching and non-teaching employees, every year, during the same period; and

(c) the Vidyalaya-wise details of class/sections abolished during these three years?

Privatisation of education system

†255. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States in the country are considering to privatise the education system;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take some steps to check the same; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Computer literacy and studies in school programme

256. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a detailed programme called Computer Literacy and Studies in School (CLASS), to push computer literacy in a big way at the school level, across the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the role envisaged for States, the financial allocations made and the phased timetable fixed for implementation of the programme?

Primary and secondary schools in States

†257. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have found out the number of primary and secondary schools in each State;

(b) if so, the number of these schools in each State; and

(c) the State-wise average of students and teachers in both types of schools?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Adult and non-formal education centres in H.P.

258. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of adult and non-formal education centres operating in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether all these centres are operating smoothly;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up more such centres in the State; and

(d) if so, the district-wise details thereof?

Training-cum-production centres for women in H.P.

259. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the Central scheme for setting up employment and income generating training-cum-production centres for women in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) the details regarding the number of centres and women beneficiaries for the last three years, year-wise and district-wise?

Expenditure on education for all above 14

†260. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an annual expenditure of Rs. 9800 crores has been estimated, to educate every child upto age of 14 years during next ten years;

(b) if not, the actual assessment of the amount to be spent; and

(c) the estimate of annual expenditure to achieve targets in each State and how this much estimated expenditure is higher or lower than the present average annual expenditures in each State?

NCC training to students

†261. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to impart NCC training to all the students of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this matter; and

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

Illegal sale/adoption of children

262. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether inter-country adoption racket has been reported in some States, including Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken to prevent illegal sale of children or illegal adoption through some private orphanages?

Sexual exploitation of children

263. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has endorsed Global Commitment (Declaration) adopted in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Yokohama for action at national, regional and international level to eradicate commercial, sexual exploitation of children;

(b) the number of countries which have pledged to adopt this commitment (Declaration);

(c) whether a permanent machinery has been constituted to oversee its implementation; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

Popularising science education in Karnataka

264. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to arrest the dwindling interest among the young in taking up a career in science in Karnataka;

(b) whether funds have been allocated to Karnataka for popularising science education; and

(c) if so, the details therefor?

Syllabus for NCERT

265. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether serious doubts have surfaced over implementation of the syllabus this year;

(b) if so, whether teachers and apex educational bodies would go about incorporating the syllabus without the teachers having requisite training and orientation;

(c) whether the NCERT has decided to provide sufficient training to teachers for implementation of this new syllabus; and

(d) what steps are being considered by Government in this regard and to make non-controversies?

Drop-outs in MCD schools

266. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Government has noted that the drop-out rate in MCD schools is increasing and the rate for girls is 29 per cent whereas that for boys is 23 per cent;

(b) whether over 3 lakh targeted students are still out of classrooms;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the pass percentage is dipping sharply; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Reconstitution of Railway Committees

267. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DRUCCs, ZRUCCs, NRUCCs, Hindi Salahakar Samiti and other similar Committees are being re-constituted by the Ministry of Railways;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what criteria is being adopted to nominate members of these Committees and

what are the terms and conditions of each Committee?

On time performance of Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains

268. SHRI BHAGATRAM
MANHAR:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on time performance of Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains is not being maintained and trains are running considerably late;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not maintaining on time performance of these trains; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that these fast trains run on time?

Passenger train on the converted Wankaner-Malia rail line

269. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred on the conversion of Wankaner-Malia rail line;

(b) the total revenue earned, till January, 2002, from the day the goods traffic was started on the above converted broad gauge line;

(c) whether the Ministry has received representations to start passenger trains on the above mentioned line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Gauge conversion, electrification and extension of trains in Gujarat

270. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals for conversion of rail lines into broad gauge in Gujarat are pending;

(b) how many proposals to start new trains, extension of trains from present termination and to start EMU trains in Gujarat are pending with the Ministry; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is deprived of rail services, considering the new trains, broad gauge conversion, electrification, etc. in comparison to other States and Union Territories?

Privatisation of unremunerative rail lines

271. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified unremunerative rail lines for privatisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and conditions laid down for privatisation of unremunerative rail lines; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to the Railways by privatising unremunerative rail lines?

Budget hotels and Rail Yatri Niwas at Tirupati

272. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish budget hotels and Rail Yatri Niwas at Tirupati, for the convenience of visiting devotees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Rail Yatri Niwas would be established there?

**Remodelling and beautification of
Hyderabad and Vijayawada
railway stations**

273. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the works of remodelling of Hyderabad railway station and beautification and other works at Vijayawada railway station in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) by when these works are likely to be completed?

Vigilance cameras at railway platforms

274. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways proposed to introduce vigilance cameras at platforms of important stations to check pilferages, chain snatching, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in the matter; and

(c) the railway stations identified for the purpose?

Status of Bogibeel Bridge Project

275. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the implementation status of Bogibeel Bridge Project under PM's package for

North East, indicating the date of submission of DPR project cost, allocation and utilisation made year-wise, till date and target date set for start of actual construction;

(b) whether Government propose to redesign the Bridge from double track to single track;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if not, the details of resource mobilisation, indicating sources?

**Blast at Basanpalli railway station in
Andhra Pradesh**

276. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a newly constructed railway station was blasted by the naxalites of the banned people's war group at Basanpalli, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of damage/loss suffered in the blast by the Railways;

(c) whether the culprits responsible for the blast have been identified, arrested and punished; and

(d) what are the other details in this regard?

Reduction in fare of Palace on Wheels

277. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fare of Palace on Wheels, the luxury train, has been reduced recently;

(b) if so, the percentage of reduction therein;

(c) when this reduced fare became effective;

(d) whether this reduction has attracted more tourists; and

(e) the occupancy position before and after reduction in fare?

Rail link to Karnataka cities

278. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many new rail lines, connecting major cities of Karnataka with neighbouring States, were approved in the past budgets, but very meagre amount was allocated for the work;

(b) if so, whether Government have any time-frame for completion of these projects; and

(c) if so, the details of such projects and the reasons for very less allocation of amount to these projects?

USA grants to Indian Railways

279. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States of America has agreed to grant four lakh dollars to the Indian Railways for further development of its Geographic Information System-based strategic investment planning techniques;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard was signed by Government with the United States;

(c) if so, the main feature of this agreement;

(d) to what extent it would help the Railways; and

(e) by when these grants are likely to be utilised by the Railways?

Computerised railway reservation counters in Rajasthan

280. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the number and details of railway stations in Rajasthan where computerised reservation counters are likely to be set up by the end of the next year?

Freight targets of the Railways

281. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have achieved the target of freight tonnage in the first three quarters (April to December) of the 2001-2002 financial year;

(b) if so, what was the target for the same and what was the achievement; and

(c) the reasons for shortfall, if any, and the steps taken to achieve the target in this regard?

Railway proposals from Kerala

282. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received by the Ministry from the Kerala Government and Members of Parliament for construction of new rail lines, gauge conversion, doubling of rail lines and electrification, during the last three years;

(c) when this reduced fare became effective;

(d) whether this reduction has attracted more tourists; and

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(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Anti-Collision Device in the Railways

288. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Railways has developed an Anti-Collision Device (ACD) to avoid collisions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what would be the cost of installation?

Linking of Barak Express and Cachar Express with Guwahati Express

289. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a meeting with Members of Parliament from the North-Eastern Region some time back, the Ministers and the Members (Traffic) Railway Board, had assured that the Barak Express and Cachar Express would be linked with Guwahati Express, so as to avoid inconvenience of mid-journey; transshipment;

(b) if so, whether the said proposal has since been implemented, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

Prohibition on smoking in South Central Railway

290. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Central Railway has issued orders prohibiting smoking at Railway premises;

(b) what is the definition given to the term Premises; and

(c) what is the implementing agency?

Creation of new Railway Zones and Divisions

291. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to create new Railway Zones and Divisions in the country;

(b) if so, when was the decision taken and what were the Zones and divisions the Ministry wanted to create;

(c) what is the progress in the direction, what are physical, financial targets achieved, so far; and

(d) by when would these Zones and Divisions become fully operational?

Chain snatching and thefts at Vijayawada Railway Station

292. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the number of cases of chain snatching and thefts, the Railway Authorities are contemplating to set up vigilance cameras at all platforms of Vijayawada Railway Station;

(b) if so, the number of cameras to be installed; and

(c) by when these cameras would be in position?

**Conversion of NG rail line in
Lumbding-Silchar section**

293. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work for conversion of narrow gauge rail line in the Lumbding-Silchar section of the North-Eastern Frontier Railway into broad gauge has been pending far long; if so, since when;

(b) the reasons for the tardy progress of work;

(c) whether resource crunch is one major contributory factor; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to make more resources available to complete the work quickly?

**Computerised rail reservation in
Punjab**

†294. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations in Punjab where rail reservations are done by computer; and

(b) the number and details of additional stations where computerised reservation centres are proposed to be opened, station-wise?

**Delhi-Lucknow Swarna Shatabdi
train**

295. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have started a hi-tech Delhi-Lucknow Swarna Shatabdi train which costed Rs. four crore for each coach;

(b) whether it is also a fact that price of such hi-tech coach is four times the price of an Indian coach;

(c) whether any training programme was being conducted before the coaches started commissioning; and

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

**Problems of rail passengers at
Bhopal-Nagpur section**

†296. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the passengers travelling between Bhopal and Nagpur have to face lots of troubles;

(b) if so, whether Government have received demands from passengers to extend the services of the Shatabdi Express upto Nagpur;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government so far in this regard;

(d) by when Government propose to extend service of this train upto Nagpur; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Stoppage of Trains at Habibganj

†297. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation to provide stoppage of Jhelum, A.P., G.T., Pushpak, Karnataka, Kerala, Mangala, Chennai-Jaipur and Rajkot-Jabalpur express trains at Habibganj Station;

(b) if so, whether passengers have to face a lot of difficulties while boarding

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

or alighting from the trains due to non-stoppage at Habibganj; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Remodelling of Bandra Station

298. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have planned for remodelling of Bandra Railway Station in Mumbai;

(b) what is the estimated cost for the above remodelling and what are the facilities to be provided;

(c) whether some portion is to be sold to private offices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Recruitment of scientists by CSIR

299. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new policy for recruitment of Scientists in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is under consideration/implementation by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the reservation, if any, for the reserved categories?

Science and Technology Policy

300. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to formulate new Science and Technology Policy for the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that a draft of such a policy has already been formulated and is awaiting vetting by experts;

(c) whether views have been obtained from cross sections of society, to secure full support from the public; and

(d) if so, what are the main suggestions which came from the public and others?

Millennium Science and Technology Policy

301. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft Millennium Science and Technology Policy reportedly finalised recently, highlights the loss of an entire generation of talent, an aging pool of scientists, obsolete labs, declining quality of research, poor technology transfer and other inadequacies;

(b) if so, the details of deficiencies observed and the main features of the new policy outline; and

(c) the broad framework of corrective steps proposed to attract the best available creative talent and to create the required infrastructure for the purpose?

Panel for fixing up time zones

302. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a panel for fixing up different time zones in the country;

(b) if so, the basis of selection of the panel;

(c) whether any specific recommendation has been given to the panel in respect of the number of time

zones, the geographical division and the base of local time zone of the division;

(d) whether any earlier research finding in this regard is available; and

(e) by when the report of the panel is expected?

Cloning by CCMB

303. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad has embarked upon a project to apply the DNA technology and reproductive biology technology for socially relevant problems;

(b) whether the Scientists at the centre have taken up a project to clone extinct animals like cheetah; and

(c) if so, the details of the project and the progress made so far?

Relaxations for public sector steel companies

†304. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the concessions announced last year by Government have not benefited the public sector steel companies, as expected;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of steps taken to improve the conditions of Rourkela Steel Plant?

National Steel Institute, Puri

305. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Steel Institute has been set up and inaugurated at Puri in Orissa, to help the Steel Industry to face international competition, by carrying out training and research;

(b) if so, what are the main challenges faced by the Indian Steel Industry; and

(c) what courses of study and research have been introduced at the Institute?

US discrimination towards Indian steel exports

306. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Government is showing discrimination to the Indian steel exports;

(b) if so, the reasons for such discrimination;

(c) whether the Indian steel industry is thinking of going to the WTO against the discrimination; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

SAG Scheme for Sports

307. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme has achieved the objective for which it was started;

(b) if so, whether it would be continued further;

(c) what are the flaws, if any, noticed in this scheme; and

(d) the remedial measures taken for removing them?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

National Youth Commission

308. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a National Youth Commission;

(b) if so, whether this Commission is to be set up initially for a period of six months;

(c) whether the main job of this Commission is to study the problems faced by the youth and the areas of concern for them;

(d) whether the Commission would also review the existing youth related schemes;

(e) whether its Chairman and members have been selected; and

(f) if so, by when the Commission is likely to function?

Establishment of sports academies in Andhra Pradesh

309. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been sent by the Andhra Pradesh Government for approval of Sports Authority of India for a Joint Venture between SAI and the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh for establishment of ten academies in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, when such proposal was received;

(c) whether Government have obtained clearance from the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay in getting the clearance?

National Rowing Academy at Hyderabad

310. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government for setting up of a National Rowing Academy at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in clearing the proposal?

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd February, 2002
Phalgun 4, 1923 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

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