

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, the March 1, 2006/Phalgun 10, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Commerce and Industry; Defence; Home Affairs; Labour and
Employment; Rural Development; Textiles)

Total number of questions — 155

Priority to Indian farmers' interests in WTO negotiations

864. SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interests of farmers be
kept in mind while negotiating in the second
round of WTO negotiations since in India
million of farmers depend on agriculture;

(b) whether it is a fact that the developed
countries were requested to cut their trade
distorting agriculture subsidies by 83 per
cent and if so, what was their reaction;

(c) what action Government propose
to take to safeguard the interests of the
farmers; and

(d) whether provisions will be made to
safeguard food and livelihood securities and
rural development?

Expansion of ITPO Chennai

865. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the
Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Trade Promotion
Organisation at Chennai is being expanded;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Discontinuance of subsidy on export of agro-products by US and EU

†866. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the sixth
minister level meeting under WTO, America
and European countries had agreed to
discontinue subsidy on export of agro-
products;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether any decision has been arrived at with regard to subsidy on the production of agro-products; and

(d) if so, the details of the said decision?

New facilities for setting up SEZs

†867. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently announced new facilities for setting up new Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details of facilities and new facilities added recently;

(c) the estimated number of new Special Economic Zones likely to come up as result of these new facilities; and

(d) the number of units in each of the zones?

Employment opportunities in SEZs

†868. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that capital investment to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh thousand crores has been assessed to be made through the industrial units established in Special Economic Zones in the next three years;

(b) whether it has also been *inter alia* assessed about the creation of around 5 lakh new employment opportunities in the next three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the basis on which the said assessment have been made by Government; and

(e) the details of said basis and the number of employment opportunities that will be created for specialists, trained and untrained labourers out of said 5 lakh job opportunities?

Import of consumer and capital goods

†869. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of consumer goods has increased by 18.9 per cent in the year 2005 in the country;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have assessed an increase in the import of Capital Goods; and

(d) if so, the details of such increase and the value of industrial raw material imported in the said period?

Share of industrial units in SEZ in GDP

†870. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any assessment with regard to share of industrial units established in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in GDP has been made;

(b) if so, the share of industrial units established in SEZs in the country, in the GDP during year 2000-2001, 2002-2003 and 2004-2005; and

(c) to what extent the share of industrial sector as a whole in GDP was assessed during the said year?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Hong Kong ministerial meeting of
WTO**

871. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT:
SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what strategy had been evolved at the Hong Kong ministerial meet of WTO, to help the Indian farmer and agriculture-based industry against dumping of agricultural products in the market;

(b) whether Indian does not favour linking reduction in agriculture subsidy with other issues like market access and reduction in custom duties in the light of the decisions taken at the Doha round of negotiations; and

(c) what specific steps are contemplated to be decided upon for the forthcoming WTO round of talks at Hong Kong to enable Third World Countries to export their farm products to the developed world at competitive prices?

**Constitution of Indian Trade
Organisation**

†872. SHRIMATI KAMLA
MANHAR: Will the Minister of
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute Indian Trade Organisation on the lines of World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, what is the blue-print of it; and

(c) what is the progress of action taken/going to be taken thereon?

Patent claims

873. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has recently expressed serious concern on Government's failure to press for patent claims on India's behalf in the international forum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to take appropriate and expeditious action to file patent claims on geographical indicators like Neem, Basmati rice and Turmeric, etc; and

(d) what further steps are being contemplated to give effect to the Court's order in this regard?

Border trade with Myanmar

†874. SHRIMATI SUSHMA
SWARAJ: Will the Minister of
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that border trade is being carried out between More Nagar, Manipur and Myanmar;

(b) whether it is a fact that statistics show a declining trend of this trade and the trade has become almost negligible; and

(c) whether Government have conducted any study about this decline and taken any steps to solve this issue after ascertaining the reasons?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rules for single brand retailing

†875. DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the grant of permission
for independent single brand retailing to
foreigners by Government, any rules have
been formulated to implement the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that any brand of
item can be sold in the market on retail basis
after the approval of Government; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

New SEZ area

†876. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of areas proposed to be
established by Government under Special
Economic Zone law which has been
implemented w.e.f. 10th February, 2006;

(b) the number of projects likely to be
opened by Government in most backward
areas like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa;

(c) whether Government has taken any
measures to establish Special Economic
Zone in these States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Projected growth of trade during
2006-07**

877. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA
KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the projected growth of trade
during 2006-2007 in view of many bilateral
agreements concluded during 2005;

(b) how far these bilateral agreements
will enable India to secure high technology
and promote joint ventures during 2006-
2007; and

(c) as SAFTA (South Asian Free Trade
Agreement) has taken concrete shape, what
percentage of increase in regional trade is
expected during 2006-2007 due to its
implementation?

**Constitution of inter-ministerial task
force on exporters' issues**

878. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
has decided to constitute an inter-
ministerial task force to resolve the issues
of exporters in the country; and

(b) if so, when the task force will be
constituted?

GoMs on FDI

879. SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI KAMLA
MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have
constituted a high power Group of
Ministers (GoMs) on Foreign Direct
Investment;

(b) if so, the details of composition of
the GoMs;

(c) whether GoMs is meeting at long
intervals and several cases of FDIs in
various sectors remained undecided; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to complete the task of GoMs in a time bound programme?

Sino-India trade

880. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sino-India trade in 2004 was \$ 13.6 billion;

(b) whether it is also a fact that road connectivity with Myanmar will boast economic cooperation with China and other fast growing South-East Asian countries; and

(c) if so, whether Government have any proposal to link North-East States with Myanmar?

Bridging economic relations between ASEAN and SAARC

881. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the observation made by the former Philippines President at the Seminar held on 'Vision of an Integrated Asia in the 21st Century' organized recently by the FICCI at New Delhi to the effect that Asean and SAARC countries were the key building blocks for the integration of the entire ASEAN-Pacific Region;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to moot any proposal to bridge the economic relations between ASEAN and SAARC countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if answered to part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

Opening of Nathu-La for border trade

882. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) by when Nathu-La route is likely to be opened for border trade between India and China; and

(b) the extent to which Indian States are likely to derive benefit from the proposed border trade?

Imports/export during current year

883. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import is expected to be more than the export during the current financial year;

(b) if so, what is its estimate with regard to the value of import and export; and

(c) what is the value of import of gold and the amount received through export of jewellery, etc. during the last two years?

Recommendations made by NMCC

884. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Manufacturing Competitive Commission (NMCC) has recently made certain recommendations about how to achieve 12 per cent growth in the manufacturing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have examined the recommendations and chalked out any action plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

FTAs with neighbours

885. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to launch a major exercise to hasten Free Trade Agreements with its neighbours;

(b) if so, the details of the talks held with each country;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Government have set any time frame to finalize FTAs with all neighbouring countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government are willing to import more from neighbours, especially the less developed economies; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Impact of greater market access in agricultural products

886. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government conceded that greater market access in agricultural products would expose this sector to greater competition from abroad, and make farmers more vulnerable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for taking such steps?

MoU between India and Russia to increase bilateral trade

887. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to increase bilateral trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which bilateral trade between the two countries is likely to be expanded and the new items proposed to be included (both imports and exports) for trade between the two countries?

Dip in vegetable oil imports

888. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a dip in vegetable oil import during November-2005 to January 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the imports of vegetable oil for the last three years, month-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether any representation is submitted during the year 2005-06 to address issues that are confronting market related to vegetable oil;

(d) if so, details of action taken thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Agricultural produces exported and imported

889. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the major agricultural produces that are both exported and imported by India;

(b) the reasons for the import of those crops; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent dumping of seeds of hazardous produces during such imports?

Non-renewal of anti-dumping duty imposed on Chinese imports

890. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes not to renew anti-dumping duty imposed on Chinese imports;

(b) whether the local industry has petitioned against withdrawal of the above duty;

(c) whether as per provisions of law, such a duty could only be withdrawn after conducting a proper review in the matter, taking into account the interest of our local industry;

(d) whether such a review has been conducted in the matter; and

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

Decline in leather garment exports

891. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a decline in leather garment exports;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the leather garment exports?

Indo-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement

892. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRIMATI JAYA
BACHCHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is on the fast track;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Korea also proposes to link a CEPA with India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how far these agreements would help to further boost trade between India and these countries?

Comprehensive Economic Cooperation with Singapore

893. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has entered into a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with Singapore recently;

(b) if so, whether it will not lead to flood of imports from the third world countries since Singapore has got enough safeguards in the agreement; and

(c) if so, how the Ministry is thinking of meeting this situation?

Footwear park at Chennai

894. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to create a footwear park at Chennai;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when the park will be set up;
- (d) whether footwear park will be accorded Special Economic Zone status;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Import of natural rubber through STC

895. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether All India Rubber Industries Association has urged import of natural rubber through State Trading Corporation and the rubber so imported should be sold to small industries;
- (b) if so, whether export of natural rubber has been urged to be discontinued;
- (c) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Export of Chinese articles to India through Nepal

896. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Nepal tops in garment exports to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian markets provide a duty free access for all Nepalese manufactured articles;

(d) whether Chinese products are also finding their way to India through Nepal and enjoying the above privilege; and

(e) if so, the action plan of Government to impose safeguards against Chinese products entering our markets through Nepal?

A E Zs for agricultural products

897. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposals for setting up Agri-Export Zones for agricultural products like tea, coffee, tobacco and fish in areas rich in production of specific agricultural products; and

(b) if so, for which agricultural products such export zones are to be set up, indicating the annual production of exportable agro products?

Development of import infrastructure

898. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided to States, including Maharashtra for development of export infrastructure and allied activities during the last two years and current year, State-wise;

(b) whether any guideline has been issued by the Union Government for the utilization of Central grants;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the performance of each State in export earnings;

(e) whether there is any proposal to give special incentives to the States to increase the country's export; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

SEZs in Haryana and Orissa

899. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre proposes to approve 8 Special Economic Zones in Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of SEZs that have been set up or are proposed to be set in Orissa State to improve the economy of this backward region?

Decline in export of spices

900. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of spices have shown a declining trend during April-December 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the items showing decline in export and the items that shows growth in export and the total exports during the above period, items-wise, month-wise, category-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the decline in export and the steps taken to rectify the above?

Funds for development of industries in Rajasthan

901. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by Government for Development of industries in Rajasthan during the Tenth Plan;

(b) the amount released and utilized by Rajasthan so far;

(c) the targets fixed and achievements made, so far in respect of growth;

(d) whether any proposals from the State Government, still pending with the Centre in above context; and

(e) if so, their details and disposal?

Inter-regional trade under SAFTA

902. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how SAFTA will lead to a rise in inter-regional trade;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has still not adopted the SAFTA;

(c) with the beginning of SAFTA, how India's trade would grow from the present Rs. 25,000 crores with SAARC; and

(d) what could be the main areas of cooperation between the SAARC countries after the emergence of SAFTA?

Amendment in provisions of EPCG scheme

903. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have amended to provisions of the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the value of the cars imported during the last three years misusing the provisions of this scheme;

(d) the number of cars seized by Government in such cases; and

(e) the number of such vehicles released by Government after payment of necessary duties?

SEZs in Punjab

904. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Economic Zones set up in Punjab recently;

(b) the location of each Zone;

(c) the criteria adopted for setting up of such Zones;

(d) whether there is any proposal to open new SEZs in Punjab in near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Industries set up in Uttaranchal

905. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major and minor Industries that have been set up in Uttaranchal in the last three years, year-wise and district-wise to help the poor people to come above the poverty line; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to extend financial assistance in this behalf?

Trade agreement with Japan and Russia

†906. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed/going to sign any bilateral trade agreement with Japan and Russia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

One code name for two operations

907. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether code name "VIJAY OPERATION" was given to the operation of Indian Army carried out to liberate Goa in December 1961;

(b) whether the same name "VIJAY OPERATION" was also given to repel the attack of Pakistani Army in Kargil Sector, a few years back; and

(c) if so, reasons for giving one code name?

Letter from a Minister regarding Denel deal

908. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had received any communication dated June, 10, 2004 forwarded by Smt. Renuka Chowdhary, the then Minister of Tourism, containing nine pages document prepared by some senior officers of the Army against Denel, a South Africa firm who was trying to sell artillery to Indian Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of officers who prepared that document; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

Compensation for vacating extra spectrum for telecom providers

909. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the defence

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Ministry has sought Rs. 1,235 crore in compensation from Government to vacate extra spectrum for telecom providers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry was willing to shift to another band, but, Government had not provided Rs. 345 crore in compensation for vacating spectrum; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Terrorism on the high seas

†910. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that personnel of Indian navy are constantly apprehensive about terrorism on the high seas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to deal with it?

Grounding of Dhruv

911. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS
KAUR:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Force have decided to ground the entire fleet of Dhruv, the indigenously developed Advance Light Helicopter;

(b) what technical faults if any, about its maneuverability or otherwise have been detected in the practical use of this helicopter; and

(c) how many cases of crash of this type of helicopter are under review or examination in this context, and the details thereof?

Raise in defence outlay

912. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise its outlay in the current year;

(b) whether Government has spent the allocated outlay for the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Withdrawal of troops from Kashmir valley

†913. SHRI UDAY PRATAP
SINGH:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHIRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to withdraw 5000 soldiers from Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the said decision has been taken after assessing the situation prevailing in the State;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) whether peace is returning in the State and if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(f) the measures taken to deal with any kind of terrorist activities in future; and

(g) whether Pakistan has also brought down the number of soldiers on its borders and accepted India's line of control alongwith details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Treatment of common man in
military hospitals**

†914. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued instructions regarding the treatment of common man in military hospitals in accident cases and in emergency on humanitarian ground;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such military hospitals in the country wherein this facility have been provided; and

(d) whether Government will provide this facility in the remaining military hospitals also?

**Development of Kaveri Engine by
DRDO**

915. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of development efforts by DRDO in regard to fighter aircraft engine KAVERI;

(b) whether the same has been subjected to high-attitude providing tests in Russian sites, and if so, the results thereof; and

(c) whether the DRDO is now looking for a technology partner from US to further develop KAVERI, and if so, the details thereof?

**Development of medium contract
aircraft**

916. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to make tie-ups to develop medium combat aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the total amount so far spent by Government on the development of Light Combat Aircraft?

**Exemption from Right to Information
Act**

917. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has requested the Ministry of Personnel to exempt all the three Services from the purview of the Right to Information Act, 2005;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry is demanding to keep its Services out of the purview of the Act since the paramilitary forces have also been taken out of the purview of the Right to Information Act;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) why is it insisting to enjoy exemptions by including its Services under Schedule 2 of the Act?

**Alternative road on the bank of Tindi
in HP**

†918. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the road from tribal district Lahaul-Spiti Udaipur towards Pangi-Kilad of Chamba district in Himachal Pradesh is under Border Road Organisation remain closed due to heavy snowfall causing obstruction in the movement of farmers from tribal areas and transportation of their cash crops;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to construct an alternative road on this route on the left bank upto Tindi; and

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

Cantonments in various States

†919. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cantonment areas in various States of the country;

(b) whether Government have received complaints from the residents of various cantonment areas;

(c) if so, the type of such complaints and the States from which these have been received along with the measures Government have taken to resolve the same; and

(d) the State-wise details thereof?

Death of HPT-32 trainee IAF pilot

920. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether last year, a HPT-32 Trainee IAF pilot lost his life in Hyderabad; if so, what are the causes for such an incident;

(b) whether it is a fact that this is the 10th HPT-32 crash since 1989; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to avoid such accidents in future?

New schemes for the improvement of NCC

921. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched new schemes/programmes for the qualitative improvement of the efficiency of N.C.C. cadets for improving the defence preparedness of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds issued to Rajasthan, for the purposes of N.C.C. activities, during current financial year;

(d) the status of the utilization thereof;

(e) whether in the above context, any proposal of the State Government are pending consideration with the Centre at present; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and their disposal by the Centre?

Quality controls of materials supplied to Army

†922. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the agency which ascertains the quality of arms and equipments supplied to the army and the mechanism it has for testing the same;

(b) the number of centres of quality controllers in the country and the total number of complaints received by them during last three years regarding arms, ammunition and armed vehicles manufactured in ordnance factories;

(c) the action taken by Government on these complaints and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure the quality assurance for the material being supplied to the army?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Erratic functioning of MiG-21s

923. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that upgraded MiG-21s are found to be erratic in their function as was found in the accident which occurred in Jamnagar (Gujarat) on 17th January, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure safer operations of MiG-21s?

Production of sensors indigenously

924. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether installation of sensors on our Borders can play a very effective role in dealing with cross-border infiltrators and cross-border terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Bharat Dynamics, DMRL, ECIL, AMD of Hyderabad; NPL of Delhi and Ahmedabad, BARC, IIT of Bombay and I.I.S. of Bangalore are fully equipped with research and Technology to produce sensors indigenously;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to make use of these research and development by these organisations to produce sensors; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

AIDs amongst Army personnel

925. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of Army personnel have been found infected with AIDS and if so, the number of such personnel at present;

(b) whether some affected personnel have been removed from the services and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government had received any protest/representation from the National AIDS Control Organization against the removal of such persons from from services and if so, the action taken thereon?

Defence cooperation agreement between India and Philippines

926. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Philippines signed an agreement on defence cooperation between the two countries during the recent visit of the hon'ble President to Manila;

(b) if so, the details of cooperation worked out between the two countries; and

(c) how the Ministry of Defence is going to be benefited from this agreement?

Dhruv crashes

†927. SHRI AJAY MAROO:
SHRI MANGANI LAL
MANDAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the helicopter 'Dhruv' manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. has often crashed at many places due to mechanical and technical defects prevailing in it;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that due to faults in design of the helicopter defects have been noted in the transmission and roter of tail gear box;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of countries including Israel have shown their hesitation to acquire 'Dhruv' helicopter after incidents of crash; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

One-rank-one pension scheme

928. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one-rank-one-pension scheme, aimed at bringing about equity amongst corresponding rank officers retiring from Armed Forces, has not been implemented fully;

(b) if so, which category and class of defence personnel still remain deprived of the benefits of the scheme; and

(c) how far the disparity in retirement benefits, like gratuity and pension payable to personnel retiring earlier than the cut off date (1996) still persists?

Rectification of defects in Arjun Tanks

929. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 3035 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th August, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the shortcomings pointed out during the trials of production version of Arjun Tanks in June, 2005, have since been rectified; and

(b) if so, by when the improved and acceptable version of the tank is likely to be brought out and inducted into the army?

Phone tapping

†930. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of CEOs of all public and private telecom companies, was convened by Union Home Minister some time back;

(b) if so, the agenda of the meeting and decisions taken therein;

(c) number of telephone-tapping incidents involving private telephone companies; and

(d) names of the companies against which action has been taken so far and details thereof?

Tapping of phones of Members of Parliament

931. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received complaints from the Members of Parliament about the tapping of their telephones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken on those complaints and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Organizations barred from getting foreign funds

932. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have barred more than 8600 voluntary organizations from seeking foreign funds under the Foreign Contribution and Regulation Act (FCRA) without getting the prior approval of Government;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether these barred institutions include Madras University, Punjab Univeristy, Jamia Millia Islamia and Indira Gandhi National Open University and such other purely academic institutions; and

(c) whether the Planning Commission had advised that monitoring of foreign funds be brought under the scanner of Ministry of Finance under Foreign Exchange Management Act to ensure more accountability and transparency?

Protection of sensitive installations

933. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of any plans by the terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba or any other group or organization to blow up the Kaiga Atomic Power Plant reservoirs and power stations around Karwai district in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government of Karnataka or Goa were alerted in this regard;

(c) whether Government have planned any special measures to protect the sensitive installations; and

(d) the details thereof?

Constitution of NDMF

934. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a National Disaster Management Fund;

(b) if so, the stage at which the proposal is at present and the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision thereon is likely to be taken?

Review of AFSPA

935. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Review Committee appointed by Government following widespread agitation in Manipur calling for withdrawal of the Armed Forces Special Power Act in force of North-Eastern region has given its report; and

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

Nexus between naxal extremists and LTTE/Maoists of Nepal

936. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the increasing nexus between extremists of India and the LTTE and Maoists of Nepal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to contain the same?

Phone tapping of leaders of political Partices

†937. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that top leaders of several political parties have alleged that their telephones are being tapped;

(b) if so, whether proper prior permission from the competent officials of Central Government was obtained as per the phone tapping law;

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

(d) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials who have been found involved in the incidents of phone tapping without proper permission?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Foregin companies involved in spying

†938. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many offices of foreign companies which are situated in and on the out skirts of Delhi involved in the spying business in India;

(b) if so, the countries to which these companies belong;

(c) whether it is also a fact that ex-officers of India's prime intelligence agencies are working in these companies; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

Infiltration from Bangladesh

939. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that infiltration from Bangladesh is more compared to western LoC; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to start counter infiltration work by the army?

Dual citizenship to NRIs/PIOs

940. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of requests Government has received from PIOs/NRIs for dual citizenship;

(b) whether the request have been processed and action taken; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Illegal immigrants

941. SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiative have been taken by Government to flush out the illegal immigrants in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Attack on civilians by BSF

942. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports of BSF personnel attacking civilians at railway stations, public places and generally colliding with civilians in the last 2 months;

(b) the details of such clashes with civilians in peaceful areas;

(c) what steps Government are taking to improve public behaviour of BSF personnel; and

(d) the details of changes in training and supervision being given by B.S.F. to its personnel?

Overcharging by taxi and auto drivers in Delhi

943. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that overcharging by taxi and auto drivers in the capital continues unabated, particularly at railway stations and for short distances;

(b) what are the reasons that the Delhi Police has not succeeded in curbing the practice; and

(c) what action Government have taken

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to check overcharging by taxi and auto drivers in the capital?

Initiative to improve intelligence network

944. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiative are being taken by Government to improve the intelligence network in view of the increased threat of terrorist attack;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Dual citizenship to PIOs

945. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has announced dual citizenship at Hyderabad and have given cards in this regard;

(b) whether according to new scheme of the Home Ministry, Persons of Indian Origins (PIOs) can invest upto 100% in telecom sector; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Crimes in Delhi

946. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of robberies, murders, kidnapping and eve-teasing on women took place in Delhi during the last three years, year-wise/district-wise/zone-wise;

(b) the number of persons killed as a result of robberies and murders and the details of amount of compensation paid to the next of kin of the deceased;

(c) the number of above such cases registered, solved and arrests made; and

(d) the necessary action proposed to improve the law and order situation in Delhi?

Network of Lashkar-e-Taiba in Jharkhand

†947. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the media reports about creation of network in a number of cities in Jharkhand by Lashkar-e-Taiba;

(b) whether any details have been received from the State Government in this regard; and

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

Guidelines regarding telephone tapping

†948. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any direction regarding telephone tapping;

(b) if so, how these directions differ from those already in place; and

(c) the details of the direction in place?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Correspondence in Hindi between Government and companies

†949. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that any scheme to make all correspondence in Hindi between Government and the companies (national and multinational) established in the country has been formulated;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the discussion is going on between the Department of Rajbhasha and companies in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the suggestions received from major industrial groups in this regard and the Government's reaction thereto?

Women terrorists on Indo-Bangladesh border

†950. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an increasing danger of Bangladeshi women terrorists on Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there is an infiltration of some Bangladeshi women terrorists in border areas of West Bengal, Assam, Tripura and Bihar; and

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

Missing Pak nationals

951. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani citizens came as tourists in India and missing during the last three years;

(b) the efforts being made by Government to locate such tourists and to repatriate them to their country;

(c) whether it has come to Government's notice that Pak intruders have started coming through Bangladesh/ Nepal borders; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by Government to stop this menace?

Rehabilitation policy for surrendered naxalites

952. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has asked the Naxal affected States to work out a surrender and rehabilitation policy for naxalites;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any additional financial package has been given to States to meet the situation?

Assistance to Nagaland under NCCF

953. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the Government of Nagaland for special assistance under National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for flood damage during the last three years; and

(b) if so, how many districts have been affected by natural calamity (flood) and the step taken by Government till date?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Canteen facility in police service

954. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received any representation from the State Governments with regard to the canteen service facility in police service;

(b) whether considering the service of the police personnel in the law and order situation in the State Government would take steps to implement the canteen service which are available now in the defence service alone; and

(c) the view of Government in this regard?

Research and Training Centres for police

955. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the specialised police research and training agencies in various parts of the country established during the past years;

(b) whether Government of Kerala has made any request for establishing a research and training centre in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by Central Government in this regard?

Terrorist attacks

956. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many terrorist attacks were made in Delhi, U.P., Uttaranchal and

Himachal Pradesh during the last two years; and

(b) the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to prevent recurring of such incidents in future?

Re-building works in Tsunami hit areas

957. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rehabilitation/re-building works are still not completed in the Tsunami hit areas;

(b) if so, the details of completed and ongoing works, State-wise and District-wise; and

(c) the District-wise details of funds spent so far along with the total fund received by each State and the funds released by Centre, State-wise?

Naxal violence

958. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent Republic Day function was marred by organized Naxalite Violence that hit Bihar and Jharkhand with some severity and remained limited to light attacks in Maharashtra and Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the loss of lives and property as a result of their attacks; and

(c) whether Government have not able to chalk out any concrete plan to tackle the Naxal problem which has resulted in the killing of several hundred people and if so, the reasons therefor?

Naxal attacks on the eve of Republic Day

†959. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail traffic was disrupted as a result of bomb explosions on tracks and bridge by Naxalites just before the Republic Day in Bihar and Jharkhand after kidnapping some of the railway employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the recent past Naxalites had been threatening to carry out attacks just before Republic Day; and

(d) if so, the steps Government and concerned State Government have taken to check the same?

Inclusion of DGHC in Sixth Schedule

960. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tripartite MoU has been signed leading to inclusion of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) will the new measure allow DGHS greater autonomy and funds for development; and

(c) whether it will also pave the way for elections to the Council held up for so long?

Co-ordination meeting on naxalism

961. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have convened the 19th Co-ordination Meeting on naxalism recently to review and coordinate the steps being taken by the naxal affected States to effectively combat the menace;

(b) if so, the details discussed in the meeting;

(c) the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Government are focussing on further streamlining of efforts to strengthen the security, intelligence and development structures and review mechanisms at the State, District and police station levels;

(e) if so, the action plan therefor;

(f) whether Government are willing to extend all possible help to supplement the efforts of State Governments; and

(g) if so, the response of each State Government received so far?

Separate intelligence system for North-Eastern States

†962. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of violence, turbulence, destruction and bloodshed are continuously increased due to non-availability of timely information to Government regarding fissiparous and terrorist activities in North-Eastern States;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up and develop a separate joint intelligence system for the North-Eastern States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Targeting CM or former CM by terrorists

963. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists have targeted any Chief Minister or former Chief Minister in any State recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are making full proof arrangements to prevent such incidents in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Ministry have called for any meeting to discuss such issue at CMs level;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Special status to Bihar to deal with naxalism

964. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Patna High Court has asked the Central Government to accord special status to the Government of Bihar to deal with the Naxalite problem in the State; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction?

Security of women in metro cities

965. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a large number of cases of molestation, rape and gang rape were reported in metros during last week of the year 2005 despite measures being taken to prevent the same;

(b) if so, the details of such cases;

(c) whether all the culprits involved have been brought to book;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure safety and security of women in metropolitan cities?

Mao militants intensified

†966. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late Mao militants have intensified their aggression by targeting and blasting communication towers, railway stations and police posts with land mines in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact that these such incidents prove that these militants are in contact with Mao militants of Nepal and that these Nepali militants impart training and supply arms and ammunition and explosive material here; and

(c) if so, Government's views in this regard?

Notification of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill

967. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill passed last year, on receiving President's assent were notified and if so, on what date;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what further action is being contemplated in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

ISI network

968. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that terror infrastructure created by the ISI is still intact inspite of India taking so many CBMs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ISI network is recruiting, financing and training terrorists not only in the North-West but also in the North-East; and

(c) if so, what concerted efforts Government of India is taking to curb these?

Non observation of Labour Laws

969. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Builder Mafia, Carpet Factory owners, Highways/ Road Construction Contractors, Kiln owners, Mine owners, etc. do not observe the provisions of Indian Labour Act/various labour laws, meant to ensure protection to the labour;

(b) in this context, whether any survey has been undertaken;

(c) if so, its findings and recommendations;

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to check the exploitation of these unorganized labourers, regarding their wages, basic amenities and living environment; and

(e) the details thereof?

Counselling facilities by employment exchanges

970. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main functions of employment exchanges set up in different parts of the country;

(b) the number of employment exchanges, State-wise and the total amount of expenditure incurred on their working; and

(c) whether it is also providing counselling facilities to the educated youths?

Development of model hospitals by ESIC

†971. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced any scheme for developing model hospitals by Employees State Insurance Corporation;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the proposed hospitals in the country on the basis of above announcement;

(c) whether it is a fact that a proposal sent by Government of Madhya Pradesh in this regard is pending with Government for its consideration; and

(d) if so, by when Government would take a decision in this regard?

Increase in interest rate on EPF

972. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

are considering to increase the interest rate on EPF considering the expected growth of economy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the EPF accumulation has been a strength of sources for Government's various needs of funds; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been a demand for increase in EPF interest rate?

Demand for raising rate of interest on EPF

973. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leaders of Trade Unions met Finance Minister on 12th January, 2006 to urge him to raise the rate of interest on EPF by enhancing rate of interest on Special Deposit Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

Employment to educated youths

†974. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to assess the number of educated unemployed youths in the country;

(b) if so, the details of existing ratio of educated youths and total number of unemployed youths in the country;

(c) whether Government are taking any special measures to provide employment to these youths and to bring down unemployment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Rehabilitation of child labourers

†975. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the project work on child labour;

(b) if so, the details for the last two years and the steps that have been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received complaints of non-implementation of child labour rehabilitation programmes by several States; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard for the last two years?

Prohibition on child labour

976. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has recently issued notices to the Central and State Government seeking complete prohibition on child labour in all forms;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have a long term plan to alleviate all cases of child labour in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Recovery of outstanding dues

977. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the defaulting establishment from whom Employees Provident Fund amounting to more than Rs. 1 crore is due to be recovered;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the steps taken to recover dues from these defaulting establishment;

(c) how many cases/complaints under section 406/409 IPC have been filed, properties/bank accounts attached and defaulters arrested to recover dues from them during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

Fall in employment

978. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was fall in employment in both public and private sectors during the period 2001-03;

(b) if so, the details including number of employment provided in private and public sector during the last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise;

(c) the number of labourers displaced in Public and Private sectors for last three years, year-wise, category-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the number of employment provided in both organized and unorganized sector for last three years, category-wise, State-wise and year-wise?

Beedi workers in the country

979. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beedi workers in the country;

(b) the State-wise break-up of such figures;

(c) the number of beedi workers who have received identity cards all over the country;

(d) what steps are proposed to increase assistance to beedi workers in 2006-2007; and

(e) the details thereof?

Agricultural labourers

†980. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by Government regarding number of those agricultural labourers in the country who are victims of poverty and starvation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of wages being provided to these labourers;

(d) whether the low wages in this factor are affecting the agricultural production;

(e) if so, whether Government are contemplating to formulate a comprehensive legislation to protect the labourers working in the agricultural sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Provision of jobs in North-Eastern Region

981. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed persons in the country particularly in the North Eastern Region, State-wise/district-wise;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme for providing jobs to these unemployed educated youths in the country; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Child Labour

982. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has been witnessing growth in terms of engagement of children before the age of working in various sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have asked the Registrar-General of Census to furnish figures for child labour in the country?

Mandays lost due to strike

983. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the mandays lost due to strike during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) the mandays lost due to lock-out during the above period; and

(c) the mandays lost due to lay-off during the above period?

Assistance to vocational training centres in Andhra Pradesh

984. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of vocational training centres being run in Andhra Pradesh with the central assistance;

(b) whether Central Government have not provided any grant to the State for running these centres during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any proposal for central assistance received from the State is pending with the Central Government;

(e) if so, by when the said proposal is likely to be sanctioned; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rate of return by Employees Provident Fund Organisation

985. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation invested more than Rs. 1,50,000 crores out of its corpus, as at the end of October, 2005 in portfolio comprising of Central and State Government securities, financial institutions and public account;

(b) whether any of these investments has earned a return of 8.5 per cent in contrast to EPFO's liability to pay a return of 8.5 per cent to its subscribers as mandated by Government; and

(c) whether the EPFO has no option than to draw from its reserves to pay the subscribers the assured return of 8.5 per cent for the year 2005-06 and whether EPFO will be able to sustain this rate of return for the coming years?

Constitution of Industrial Tripartite Committee

986. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) whether any memorandum has been sent to the Ministry of Labour by CITU to ensure Implementation of labour legislations by the Information Technology (IT) and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) industries;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Ministry on the points raised in the memorandum;

(c) whether Ministry of Labour proposes to constitute an Industrial Tripartite Committee for these industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Amendment in various labour Laws

987. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the steps being taken for the proposed amendments of Bonus Act, Plantation Labour Act, Gratuity Act, Minimum Wages Act?

Minimum wages for garbage removal workers

988. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to enforce minimum wages for the workers engaged in the removal of garbage in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

EPF arrears under litigation

989. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Employees Provident Fund arrears under litigation as on date in various States, indicating the names of private companies and Public Sector Companies based in Andhra Pradesh against which EPF amount is pending for

several years;

(b) the reasons for such a long pendency; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure expeditious payment of overdue payment of EPF to employees?

Employment opportunities

†990. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking to create additional employment opportunities;

(b) the number of persons targeted to be provided employment in the year 2006;

(c) the concrete efforts being made by Government to achieve the target;

(d) the number of unemployed persons registered in Employment Exchanges in the country at present; and

(e) whether it is a fact that no information with regard to interview is given by the private industrial houses to the persons registered in Employment Exchanges?

Deteriorating conditions of contract labourers

991. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of contract labourers in Public Sector Undertakings, Central and State Government and private sector as per the latest information;

(b) whether the service and working conditions of these contract workers continue to deteriorate in practice;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government have surveyed the conditions of contract labourers; and

(e) if so, the details alongwith the steps taken in this regard?

Provision of houses for beedi workers

992. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses constructed for beedi workers in 2004-2005 and in 2005-2006;

(b) the funds spent for this purpose;

(c) whether Government are considering proposals to make available funds for purchase of land for housing for beedi workers; and

(d) if so, the details of such proposals?

Schemes for development of rural areas

993. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific schemes have been implemented for the development of rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, in particular, and other parts of the country, in general;

(b) whether Government have undertaken any study to know the problem being encountered by farmers in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Implementation of NREGP

994. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Advisory Council (NAC) has finalized the guidelines to bring about the delivery-oriented implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NAC has also discussed the areas of concern relating to regional development to bridge the regional disparities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof especially with reference to Orissa State to improve the economy of this backward region?

IAY in Rajasthan

995. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the genesis and objective of Indira Awaas Yojana and how does it differ from other schemes for dwelling construction;

(b) what are the criteria for allocation of funds under IAY to States;

(c) the funds allowed to Rajasthan, under IAY, during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 and targets fixed thereof, year-wise;

(d) the number of dwelling units constructed in Rajasthan under Indira Awaas Yojana during said period, against the target fixed;

(e) whether any proposals from the State Government are still pending consideration with the Centre; and

(f) if so, their details and disposal?

Taking away benefits meant for the poor under SGSY

996. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that affluent

persons of society such as Zamindars are taking away the benefits meant for the poorest of the poor in rural areas under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, how many ineligible persons have taken benefits under SGSY illegally; and

(c) the steps taken to bring significant changes in the guidelines of the scheme to achieve the objective of the scheme?

Co-ordination between Centre and State agencies on water supply projects

†997. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is total co-ordination with regard to implementation of water supply projects between the agencies of Centre and State;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of districts included so far under this programme; and

(c) by when the remaining districts will be included in this programme?

Generation of employment

998. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the economic growth has not resulted in generation of employment for the rural people in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any study to find out the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to implement policy with the focus on employment generation through different short time programmes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Water Quality Survey

999. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Water Quality Survey and as reported by the States nearly 2.2 lakh rural habitations are affected with different water quality problems as on March, 2004, and in Andhra Pradesh alone more than 4,000 habitations are affected due to fluoride, salinity, Arsenic, etc.;

(b) what technical and scientific assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme is provided by the Union Government to States so as to maintain the quality of drinking water; and

(c) what integrated approach Government of India are suggesting to the States to cover the quality affected habitations?

Rural development programmes

†1000. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study with regard to the benefits extended to the people through the Rural Development Programmes during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of the schemes which create employment?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Schemes for providing employment opportunities

†1001. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes in operation to provide employment to unemployed persons in villages during last three years;

(b) the State-wise details of funds spent on these schemes during last three years; and

(c) the number of employment opportunities created during this period, State-wise and scheme-wise?

Implementation of centrally funded programmes

1002. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of centrally funded programmes being implemented in the country;

(b) the details of backward districts/regions identified for special developmental care; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the backward districts in the country including the use of advanced technology?

Schemes under Swajaldhara

1003. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed a total number of 4222 schemes under Swajaldhara in 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent for such schemes, State-wise?

Recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Group on SGSY

1004. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in implementing Inter-Ministerial Group recommendations for launching Pilot Programme under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana for unemployed youths in rural areas for 2005—07;

(b) the name of districts in the State of Andhra Pradesh selected for launching the programme in the 1st and 2nd phase; and

(c) the amount allocated for the Project for the year 2005-2006?

Proposals of rural projects

1005. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals of rural projects received from the various States of the country for the development of various roads during the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005;

(b) the details of the work done for development of various roads in the country during this period; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on each projects in the country, State-wise?

Amount spent on different schemes

1006. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allocations made under different

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

schemes of his Ministry vis-a-vis amount spent during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) what steps are being taken to ensure effective monitoring mechanism through the Panchayati Raj Institutions?

Export of Kosa and Khadi garments

†1007. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kosa (Tasar) and Khadi garments are being exported from the country;

(b) if so, the names of the countries to which such export is being made;

(c) the country-wise quantity of the said garment exported during last three years; and

(d) the details of the Kosa garments imported along-with the names and quantity of the countries exported from?

Textile mills lying closed

†1008. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills in the country lying closed for more than ten years;

(b) the names and locations thereof;

(c) the reasons for closing down of B.N.C. mill in Chhattisgarh and since when it has been closed down; and

(d) the details of action being taken for reviving or selling the same?

Schemes for growing textile centres

1009. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes and programmes formulated and being implemented by Government for industrial development in traditionally growing textile centres in the country; and

(b) the State-wise details of funds sanctioned, released and spent under the said scheme on each centre during the last three years?

Bringing down excise duty on fibres

†1010. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring down excise duty on MMF fibres from 16 per cent to 8 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that nation's textile industry is not attaining the expected growth due to tax burden and red tape; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this direction?

Setting up of sericulture enterprises in Orissa

1011. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to generate employment opportunities in the backward Orissa, the State Government proposes to set up sericulture enterprises in the most backward KBK regions;

(b) whether this project is being implemented with financial help from Central Silk Board;

(c) if so, the progress so far made in execution of the project; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) what is the action plan of the Centre to help this cash-strapped State in silk worm rearing with a view to provide employment to rural masses?

India's share in world's textile market

1012. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that world's market in Textiles is \$ 150 billion;

(b) whether it is a fact that the country produces 17% of the world's cotton;

(c) whether it would be possible for the country to capture a sizeable portion of world market in textiles, when China, the biggest player, will be constrained by quota system for next three years; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard and India's likely share in percentage in the world market indicating also the potential to generate new jobs with increasing textiles export?

Participation of India in global textile market

†1013. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the participation of India in global textile market has decreased by 46 per cent while that of neighbouring country China has increased in an unprecedented way;

(b) whether it is a fact that China's participation in textile export market jumped from 9 per cent to 72.3 per cent at present in comparison to that of 2001 while India's participation has come down from 2.8 per cent to 1.6 per cent in the said period; and

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

Textile Upgradation Fund

1014. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Textile Upgradation Fund likely to be down sized;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to help the textile sector;

(d) whether the banks have refused to reimburse 5 per cent interest subsidy under Textile Upgradation Fund;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what steps being taken by Textile Ministry in this regard?

Modernisation of Jute mills

†1015. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are providing/propose to provide special assistance for modernization of Jute mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Textile projects

1016. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the textile projects being undertaken at present in the country;

(b) the progress made so far on each project; and

(c) the time by when these projects are likely to be completed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development of handicrafts

1017. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government have made any
assessment of the development of
handicrafts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which are lagging behind
the development of handicrafts and have
not fixed targets for the development of
handicrafts; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to
promote handicrafts in these States?

Technology Mission for sericulture

1018. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will
the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to
state:

(a) whether Government are considering
launching a Technology Mission for
sericulture industry in India;

(b) whether the Central Silk Board has
finalized a draft document on the proposed
Technology Mission for silk industry and
if so, whether Government have examined
the same; and

(c) how soon the proposed Technology
Mission will be launched?

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd February, 2006
Phalguna 4, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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