

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the August 1, 2003/Sravana 10, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total Number of Questions—155

Success of Bt. Cotton

1337. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any
assessment about the success of BT Cotton
yield with respect to different regions and
cotton producing States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a number of strands and sub-
generation of Bt. Cotton seeds have been
developed by farmers in Gujarat and other
States; if so, what steps have been taken to
examine the same, as to their safety,
vulnerability to pests and impact on soil and
environment?

Subsidies to farmers in developed countries

†1338. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the huge
amount of subsidy being given to the

farmers in the developed countries of the
world is adversely affecting Indian
agriculture products;

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

(c) whether Government have made any
effort in this regard under WTO during the
last years; and

(d) if so, the details of such efforts, when
they were made and the outcome thereof?

Private sector investment in agriculture

1339. SHRI R. KAMRAJ:
SHRI THANGA TAMIL
SELVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private sector
investments are very low in agricultural
sector as compared to other areas;

(b) if so, whether Government have
analysed the reasons for low private sector
investment in agricultural sector; and

(c) what are the actions taken by
Government to increase the rate of private
sector investment in agriculture?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

OPP in Andhra Pradesh

1340. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN:
DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Centrally sponsored oil-seeds production programme is being implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; alongwith the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the districts in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu where it is implemented; and

(d) how far the programme has succeeded in the States?

Project for crop diseases

1341. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has formulated a Rs. 40 crore project to develop an A - Team spread across research institutes which would focus on solutions to unconquered crop diseases that destroy 14 crops;

(b) if so, what facilities would be given to the team Scientists and researchers to enable them to work in Mission-mode; and

(c) the diseases and crops targetted for the research mission?

Technology mission for NER

1342. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) duration of technology mission for the North Eastern Region and the amount of fund earmarked;

(b) whether work programme under technology mission would be implemented through State Government only or N.G.O. as well; and

(c) how Government will ensure effective implementation of programme under the technology mission?

Problems of Agriculturists

1343. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of some of the problems and difficulties affecting the agriculturists in the country;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken proposed to be taken for the amelioration of their conditions particularly in relation to sluggish flow of credit to the agricultural sector?

Promoting less water consuming crops

1344. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote agricultural crops based not just on productivity per hectare but on productivity per unit of water consumed to solve the water dispute in the country; and

(b) whether any amount of money has been earmarked in the tenth five year plan for the promotion, research and extension of less water consumption crops in the country; if so, the details thereof?

Increasing sugarcane cultivation area

1345. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with

Government to increase the area of cultivation of sugarcane in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed financial allocation, State-wise?

Bio-fuel project

1346. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after pushing ethanol doped petrol, Government are now keen on setting up another bio-fuel project costing Rs. 1430 crore for bio-diesel production from Jatropha seeds, plants of which will cover rain-fed and drier regions across eight States in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this scheme and the benefit that would accrue from it in terms of employment and on the environment?

Cloud seeding

1347. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has made/developed technology of cloud seeding to overcome the drought situation in the country;

(b) if so, what would be the cost for cloud seeding in a season;

(c) whether Karnataka Government has made efforts in the direction of cloud seeding; if so, the amount spent so far; and

(d) whether Centre has assisted Karnataka financially; if so, the details thereof?

Agriculture research centres

† 1348. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Agriculture Research Centres functioning in the country, along with the names of the States where these Centres are located;

(b) the names of the Centres which fully depend on the foreign assistance alongwith the amount being provided to each of the Centres, every year;

(c) whether similar Centres are also being run on the Central and State Governments' grants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Detection of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds

1349. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central institute for Cotton Research has developed a kit which helps in detecting spurious Bt. Cotton seeds;

(b) if so, the details of the research; and

(c) how it exactly helps the illiterate farmers in detecting of spurious Bt. Cotton seeds?

Demand and production of pulses and oilseeds

† 1350. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the projected demand and actual production of pulses and oil seeds during the last three years and their import, year-wise;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the projected production and demand of oilseeds and pulses for the next three years;

(c) the review of schemes implemented for increasing the production of oilseeds and pulses to meet the domestic requirement in the country; and

(d) the details of new schemes/incentives for increasing the production of oilseeds and pulses?

Delay in studies of CICEF

1351. SHRI A.K. PATEL:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the feasibility studies being carried out by the Central Institute of Coastal Engineering for Fisheries Bangalore for designing of Fisheries Harbour Development Works are getting delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what remedial measures are being proposed by government in this regard?

Increase in share of Central Government under (NAIs) Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana

1352. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government have requested the Central Government to increase the share of Central Government in compensation payable to farmers under Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana from 50 percent to 66.6 percent;

(b) whether the state Government has

also requested the Central Government to reduce the present premium rate of sugarcane crop;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal received; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

Use of pesticides

1353. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that pesticide abuse in our country is above 97000 tones and it is playing havoc with public life;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to avoid such impending danger;

(c) whether Government have formulated any guidelines to check abuse of pesticides by keeping the same minimum residual level and average daily intake level;

(d) if so, for how long such guidelines have been followed by manufacturers of pesticides;

(e) whether there is any monitoring committee for supervising these pesticide companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Saving cum relief scheme for fishermen in Kerala

1354. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal requesting to grant administrative sanction for the old pattern of saving cum relief scheme for fisherman from Kerala;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in the matter;

(c) whether Government would consider to accord sanction for the proposal of the scheme and release the matching contributions as requested by Kerala; and

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

Constitutional status to CACP

1355. SHRI MATILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been received by Government to provide constitutional status to the Commission of Agriculture Costs and Prices;

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

(c) by when the final decision will be taken by Government in this regard?

Minikit under Macro Management Scheme

† 1356. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are making arrangements for providing minikits in time in different centrally sponsored macro management programme;

(b) whether Government will consider to fix the time-limit for supply of minikits from next year; and

(c) if so, whether Government will provide amount of their share adequately and in time as per the demand; if so, the details thereof?

National Task Force on agriculture and food exports

1357. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop a National TASK FORCE on agriculture and food exports;

(b) if so, the need for such a task force;

(c) India's share in agriculture and food exports today; and;

(d) the potential India has got in this sector?

Availability of mackerel colonies

1358. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge colonies of mackerel have been located in the bay of Bengal off the Visakhapatnam coast;

(b) whether investigation has been carried out to identify reasons for abundant availability; and

(c) the action taken to export the excess catch of mackerel to foreign countries?

KVKs in AP

1359. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite the need and consistent demand of the State Government, Cudapah, Adilabad, Prakasam, Nizamabad and Khammam districts in Andhra Pradesh do not have Krishin Vigyan Kendras (KVKs);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when, Government propose to set up KVKs in these districts of the State?

Assistance to Bihar for production of Basmati Rice

† 1360. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have been included in the list of Basmati Rice Grower States; whether Bihar has also been included in that list;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided by the Central Government to Bihar for the production of Basmati Rice, so far; and;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Drought assistance norms

1361. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for determining quantum of assistance, in terms of cash and crop, to be released to a State/Union Territory union grip of severe drought;

(b) whether it is a fact that different states reeling under identical adverse climatic conditions of same intensity, receive varying degrees of assistance, even where they are contiguous and face same ire of the nature; the data for the last three years;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to draw a suitable uniform guidelines for releasing central assistance to States/UTs affected by natural calamities; and

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

Quality of milk at Mother Dairy

1362. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the quality of Milk supplied by Mother's Dairy sold to the public through its outlets has sharply declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the quality of milk of various specifications sold by it?

Production of Onion

1363. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of Onion in the country during the current yer;

(b) the quantity of Onion exported during this year till date;

(c) the quantity of Onion in Government stocks;

(d) how does the Government propose to deal the shortage of Onion during the months of October/November 2003?

Rice to AP

1364. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to grant more rice stocks for continuing the drought releif works; and

(b) if so, the action taken to supply 10 lakhs tonnes of rice for drought relief works under the Sampoonn Grameen Rozgar Yojana to continue the drought mitigation activities?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Registration of pesticides industries

† 1365. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fresh conditions have been imposed on registration of indigenous pesticide industries due to the pressure of multinational companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that multinational companies want to dominate by destroying indigenous companies; and

(d) if so, the details of efforts being made by Government to protect these indigenous companies and to sustain their products?

Investment in agriculture sector

1366. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether investment in agriculture sector has decreased to 1.3 per cent in the recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to increase the share of investment in agriculture?

Foodgrain/fruits product in Assam

1367. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target fixed for foodgrains/fruits production during the Tenth Five Year Plan in Assam;

(b) the details of the steps being taken by Government in this behalf; and

(c) the details of investment proposed to be made in the production of foodgrains/fruits in the state?

MSP of agricultural commodities

† 1368. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been demanded by Madhy Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh that support price for agricultural produce may be announced one crop in advance;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on this demand from States;

(c) whether Government will take action for announcing support price one crop in advance this year as per the demand from these States; and

(d) if so, by when and the details thereof, State-wise?

Use of fly ash in farming

1369. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Rao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth has successfully conducted an experiment to use fly ash for increasing crop yield;

(b) if so, the details of the experiment, how and how much fly ash is to be used per acre of crop area, and what has been the precise result of the experiment; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to popularise use of fly ash in farming?

Identification of drought genes

1370. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new drought genes in chick-pea has been identified;

(b) whether it is grown in semi-arid areas in the country and can withstand the drought by producing double the amount of protein to compensate the shortage of water in dry area;

(c) whether such genes are also present in other plants; these have been tried in the drought-hit zones; and

(d) whether it is proposed to transfer these genes to other plants, if so, the details thereof and how far it has proved successful?

Revamping of BVFCL

1371. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the complete revamping of Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL) of Namrup has been achieved;

(b) whether the grievances of workers and employees of BVFCL have been removed;

(c) if so, how it is done; and

(d) if not, the difficulties being faced in it?

CBI probe against Johnson & Johnson

1372. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Johnson & Johnson had been marketing their products through Small Scale Sectors violating the Drugs Price Control order;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a CBI probe was ordered into the affairs of Johnson and Johnson; and

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

Revival of Orissa drugs and chemicals limited

1373. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revive the Orissa Drugs and Chemicals Limited (ODCL);

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

(c) if not, the details of steps taken to provide suitable compensation and alternative jobs to the employees who are on the pay role of that company?

Price of Potash

† 1374. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of subsidy being provide by Government to different kinds of fertilisers at present; and

(b) keeping in view the famine and food and increasing the production of crops whether Government propose to reduce the prices of Potash and fertilizers?

Clean Yamuna campaign in Delhi

1375. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a symbolic campaign was launched in NCT of Delhi recently called "Clean Yamuna Campaign";

(b) if so, whether high level of pollution, the Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) level were found in the Yamuna apart from

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

other pollutants above the level of permissible standards;

(c) the reasons for the river being more polluted than it was last year despite/ spending a lot under the Yamuna Action Plan; and

(d) what are the plans of Government to clean Yamuna fully within time bound programme?

(c) whether it is also a fact that much of this land belongs to the C & D categories of forest land;

(d) if so, what is the extent of this land cultivated by the small and marginal farmers, State-wise; and

(e) whether it is a fact that most of these small and marginal farmers do not own any other lands?

Appointment of technically qualified persons on SPCB

1376. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Pollution Control Board has issued any instruction for the State Pollution Control Board to appoint technically qualified persons on the posts of its chairman and Member Secretary and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what are the names of State Pollution Control Boards which have not implemented those directions and the reasons furnished by each Boards in this regard?

Cultivation of forest land by small and marginal farmers

1377. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, a large number of small and marginal farmers are unauthorisidely cultivating the forest land in the country;

(b) if so, their number and the extent of land unauthorisidely cultivated by them, State-wise;

Forest area in Kerala and Karnataka

1378. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest area of the State of Kerala and Karnataka during the period 1981-2001, separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that large scale depletion of forest area is taking place in these States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the forest land from further depletion?

Danger to environment due to garbage of vam organics

†1379. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that discharge being released from the vam organics (jubiliant chemcials) Gajraulla, Uttar Pradesh is destroying the standing crops of the farmers and damaging the trees in the surrounding areas and thereby causing a serious danger to the environment; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Loss due to forest fire

1380. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of report that 'Half of forest area fire-prone; which appeared in the media recently;
- (b) if so, the details including action taken on above report;
- (c) whether there is an annual loss of Rs. 4,400 million due to forest fire;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the actual annual loss due to forest fire for the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (f) the details of fire prone area of forest, State-wise;
- (g) whether there is any national action plan for control and management of forest fires; and
- (h) if so, the details of implementation?

Yamuna Action Plan

1381. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-
CHARYA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a ten-year clean up operation was launched in 1993 for cleaning the Yamuna river;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the progress made so far for controlling the level of pollution in the river;
- (d) what is its present level of pollution;
- (e) the reasons for tardy progress in this direction; and
- (f) steps proposed to be taken to achieve the targets of the Yamuna Action Plan

(phase-I) to cleanse the river which has been virtually reduced to a big sewage drain?

Poaching of whales and sharks

† 1382. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will
the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the poaching of whales and sharks is going on unobstructed as the necessary notifications have not been issued by Government; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the poaching of the said animals?

Funds for cleaning the rivers

1383. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a request from the States for funding the programme of cleaning the rivers;
- (b) whether Government propose to accept their request; and
- (c) if so, what is the proposed allotment of funds, State-wise?

Felling of trees in metro cities

1384. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that large number of trees are being cut in various metros of the country without the valid permission of the concerned authorities;
- (b) if so, how many such cases have been reported from various metros of the country;
- (c) what steps are being taken to prevent felling of trees to protect the environmental degradation of the cities; and

(d) whether Government propose to bring out stricter laws to prevent this act; and if so, the details thereof?

Cultivation of trees in Central Himalayas

†1385. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to encourage farmers to adopt the cultivation of trees in such areas, particularly in the regions of Central Himalayas;

(b) whether the Ministry has any scheme to link the tree-plantation with the livelihood of a person in the areas which are very sensitive from the point of view of environment to encourage the cultivation of forest trees; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Workshop on urban lakes in Hyderabad by Hyflux Group

1386. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a three-day workshop was organised on urban lakes in Hyderabad by the Singapore based Hyflux Group on water quality management to control water pollution;

(b) whether as a result of implementations of their suggestions there is vast improvement in the quality of water in Hyderabad reservoirs; and

(c) the details of the client recommendations of the world agency and whether these are proposed to be implemented in other areas to improve the quality of water?

Assistance to Dudhwa National Tiger Project

1387. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total grant given as assistance to Dudhwa National Tiger Project by Government, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and others;

(b) what is the total collection from tourists in dudhwa Tiger Project;

(c) whether it is a fact that domesticated elephants, which are being used for tourists purpose are in a very bad condition and are sick and weak due to lack of proper care and food; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to prevent unusual death of wild animals in Dudhwa Project and also for proper care of domesticated elephants, used for tourists?

Illegal deforestation

1388. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise, year-wise, details of the last five years where deforestation has taken place;

(b) whether all area of deforestation was done in a controlled manner through tenders;

(c) if so, the amount of funds generated through these tenders;

(d) whether cases have come to the notice of the Ministry of illegal deforestation; and

(e) the State in which illegal deforestation had taken place and the action taken by Government to control this?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Declaring forest villages as revenue villages in MP

† 1389. SHRI SURESH PACNOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Central Government for declaring 925 forests villages of the State as revenue villages;

(b) whether the Central government have expressed their approval/objections regarding all these villages; and

(c) if not, whether approval/objections would be given at the earliest keeping in view, the interests of the tribals and no such conditions would be imposed on them which would unnecessarily delay the transformation of forest villages into revenue villages?

Eco system of changthang region

1390. SHRI K. EKANATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the opening up of the high altitude wetlands in the changthang region of Ladakh for tourism is disturbing its extremely fragile ecosystem;

(b) whether Government have taken a note of the fact that the tourist activities are causing disturbance to the wildlife, degrading the pastures and adding to the pollution; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to preserve the natural habitat of changthang region?

Forest villages in Uttaranchal

† 1391. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such villages in Uttaranchal which can be given name of forest village (Van Gram);

(b) whether these forest villages (Van Gramon) have got the status of the revenue village and the programmes of public welfare and development are implemented in these villages like other villages;

(c) if not, by when these villages will get the status of the revenue village; and

(d) whether there is any proposal of discuss the matter with State Government?

Policy against illegal deforestation

† 1392. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any policy against illegal deforestation and for the afforestation of barren land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Extinction of animals from protected forest of Delhi

† 1393. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of animals have become extinct from the protected forest of Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details of the animals alongwith their species?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Employment in forest activities

1394. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sustainable forest development can create more employment opportunities;

(b) if so, how many persons directly and indirectly have been getting employment in forest activities;

(c) the details of the forest are reduced during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the fresh steps taken to check tree cutting and forest fire in order to increase forest cover in the country?

Research and investigation in FPIs

† 1395. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of research and investigation in the field of food processing industries in the country, these industries are not developing as per expectations;

(b) if not, Government's reaction thereto and whether Government have formulated any Plan in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some institutes in the country are carrying out research and investigation work; and

(d) if so, the names of these institutes and the annual amount of economic assistance extended to them by Government?

Project for NER

1396. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes/projects in the North Eastern Region for which grants and loans have been extended by MFPI during 2001-2002 and 2002-03 State-wise;

(b) the progress of the schemes/projects completed or under progress; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to encourage setting up of more processing units in the North Eastern Region?

FPIs in Uttar Pradesh

1397. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various proposals received by Government from Uttar Pradesh Government for setting up of food processing industries in the state during each of the last three years and till date;

(b) the number of proposals cleared by Government; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Promoting FPIs in villages

† 1398. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to formulate any special scheme to promote food processing industries in order to raise living standards of villagers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Bana based drink

1399. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3788 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th April, 2003 and state:

(a) the details of developing the technology for production of banana based carbonated drink including the month and year of this break-through; and

(b) the steps taken to promote commercial production of this soft drink?

FPIs in Tripura

1400. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of food Processing Industries have been sent to the Central Government by Tripura Government during 2002-03 and 2003-04, so far;

(b) for how many of these cases money has been sanctioned and disbursed and for how many cases sanction is due and money is not released; and

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning many and releasing funds?

Child labour

1401. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of child labours in India;

(b) the reasons for the increase in number of child labour; and

(c) the special child development

programmes and schemes proposed to educate the rural children?

Upgradation of regional engineering colleges to international level

† 1402. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to upgrade Regional Engineering Colleges to International level on the lines of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT);

(b) if so, the names of engineering institutions which have been selected for upgradation, State-wise;

(c) whether Government bear their annual expenditure; and

(d) the amount to be spent by Government to upgrade the same to international level and sources of such amount?

Decrease in foreign students

† 1403. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH "LALAN":

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign students seeking education in the universities has been constantly decreasing in the country in the recent years;

(b) if not, the number of such students in the academic years 1998 and 2003; and

(c) the reasons for the constant decrease in the number of the foreign students?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Increase in students getting education abroad

† 1404. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that number of the students getting their education abroad is increasing for the last several years;

(b) if so, the number of such students during the last three years separately;

(c) whether the nation is suffering a loss of three billion dollar per year due to rising number of students going abroad; and

(d) if not, the assessment of Government?

Fees by private schools and technical institutions

† 1405. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether arbitrarily charging of the donation and fees by the private schools and Technical Educational Institutions for the admissions is legal;

(b) whether any limit has been fixed by Government for the fee to be charged from the students for each standard in the private schools; and

(c) if so, whether any concrete steps are proposed to be taken by Government to check the said arbitrary collections by the educational institutions?

Non-existent of technical education in North-East

1406. SHRI RAMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether higher education, especially technical education is almost non-existent in the North-East; and

(b) if so, the action proposed in this regard for better development of the North-Eastern Region?

Government schools without buildings in Delhi

† 1407. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the separate numbers of Government schools, which do not have buildings of their own and being run in the open space in the capital of the country as on 30th July, 2003; and

(b) the steps taken, so far, by Government for construction of buildings for the primary schools, providing electricity and drinking water facilities and mid-day meals to the children in the schools?

Works undertaken by Indian council for Philosophical Research

1408. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works undertaken by the Indian Council for Philosophical Research, a constituent of the Ministry, during the last three years;

(b) whether the Council has been able to serve the purpose for which it has been set up;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether any review of the activities of the Council has been undertaken or proposed to be undertaken;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the manner in which government propose to revamp the functioning of the Council?

Quality Education year

1409. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the year 2002-2003 was observed as "Quality Education Year"; and
- (b) if so, the details of the programme evolved and being implemented in order to improve the quality of education in the country?

Plan of action for children

1410. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI N.R. DASARI:

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

- (a) whether a voluntary organisation, centre of concern for child labour, has demanded Government for a special mention of children living in rural areas of the country in the proposed "Plan of Action for Children"; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

Mid-day meal scheme

1411. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the States in which the mid-day meal scheme is being implemented for school students;
- (b) the names of such States and the number of students covered under such mid-day meal schemes, for the years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, State-wise;
- (c) the total expenditure incurred by the concerned States on the implementation of mid-day meal schemes, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (d) the assistance given by Government to these States for this scheme State-wise and year-wise?

Funds for computer literacy in Arunachal Pradesh

1412. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated and released for computer literacy in rural and urban areas of Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years;
- (b) the reasons for not utilizing the allotted funds by the state; and
- (c) the effective measures taken by Government in this regard?

FDI in elementary education

1413. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are

contemplating a new policy on foreign direct investment in the elementary education in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry has set up an internal panel for a policy decision on this issue;

(c) whether any concrete proposal has been prepared by the Ministry in this regard;

(d) whether although a 100 per cent FDI is allowed in the education services through the automatic route, the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy have raised objections on this issue; and

(e) if so, what are the concrete steps taken in this regard?

Misuse of Dowry Prohibition Act

† 1414. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act are being misused;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to stop it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rehabilitation of Children

1415. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children account for about 38 percent of the total population;

(b) whether 53 percent of children suffer from malnutrition and 3 percent children work for wages; and

(c) the measures taken to protect and rehabilitate such 11.3 million children?

Shortage of Kendriya Vidyalayas and teachers in Jharkhand

† 1416. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is severe shortage of Kendriya Vidyalayas and their teachers in the country especially in the State of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether Government contemplate to establish Kendriya Vidyalayas in Jharkhand and also fill up the vacant posts of teachers in the Kendriya Vidyalayas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Mid-day meal scheme in Karnataka

1417. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children, so far, covered in Karnataka under Mid-day Meal Scheme;

(b) whether children upto eighth standard have been covered under the above Scheme in Karnataka; and

(c) the amount proposed to be released to Karnataka during 2003-2004 for the implementation of the Mid-day Meal Scheme?

Independent satellite for educational and cultural activities

1418. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZAMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Space in collaboration with the Ministry will be

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

launching an independent satellite dedicated to educational and cultural activities;

(b) if so, whether it will have 72 channels and could cover 16 languages;

(c) if so, by what time this satellite channel is likely to be launched; and

(d) to what extent it will be helpful for providing education to the children?

Surplus teachers in KVs

1419. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of teachers of different categories in Kendriya Vidyalayas who had been declared SURPLUS during 2002-03;

(b) the details of those whose vacancies were advertised for filling them through direct recruitment; and

(c) the details of those who have since been empanelled and offered appointments?

Computer literacy centres

1420. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up three computer literacy centre at three educational institutions of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether the pilot project is being taken up under the Centre's Gyan Vahini Scheme;

(c) if so, the broad features thereof?

UNDP Human Development Index

1421. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of

the fact that India has slipped by three notches from 124 to 127 in its ranking on the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI); and

(b) if so, the corrective measures proposed by Government?

Suicide by students

1422. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of students have committed or tried to commit suicide after finding that their results for X and XII classes examinations of CBSE this year were below expectations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would order revaluation of their papers to ascertain if there were any human or mechanical errors in the valuation of their papers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) steps proposed to be taken to avoid recurrence of such incidents?

Children deprived of education

1423. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children in India deprived of education; and

(b) the action taken to improve their lot through Gram Shiksha Samitees and with the help of village school teachers?

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh

1424. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the corpus fund Rashtriya

Mahila Kosh which was Rs. 31.00 crore at the time of its setting up on 30.03.1993 has since been increased over the years;

(b) if so, what was its size as on 31.03.2003; and

(c) the names of the organizations in Uttar Pradesh which have received assistance under various schemes of the Kosh, scheme-wise and the quantum of assistance received by each organization?

Kendriya Vidyalayas/Navodaya vidyalayas in J & K

1425. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kendriya vidyalayas/Navodaya Vidyalayas presently existing in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether there is any proposal for increasing their number during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the criteria adopted for opening/running these Kendriya Vidyalayas?

Inclusion of Yoga in school syllabus

1426. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to include Yoga in school syllabus;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Literacy levels in the North-East

1427. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether average literacy level in the North-East is higher than all India average;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to provide technical education in that area?

Operation blackboard in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

1428. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of operation blackboard in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu; and

(b) how far it has succeeded in these States?

Deep sea mining

1429. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what fresh activities if any, is Government proposing for deep sea mining so as to obtain optional benefits from the ocean resources whether our continental shelf area; and

(b) whether Government have obtained access to latest technology for deep sea mining, from Multinational companies, either through licensing on Joint Venture agreements etc?

Accidents on konkar railway

1430. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway accidents on Konkar railway on 22nd June, 2003 brought out certain disturbing practices on this new railways network of the country;

(b) whether track patrolling was not being done on this railway; and

(c) whether chart of passengers after the accident was not furnished by railways authorities to the passengers; relatives?

Eunuchs in Trains

1431. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESWARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that eunuchs are freely entering in the reserved compartments and harassing the passengers by demanding money in almost all Express/Mail trains thus threatening the security of the passengers; and

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

Hapur-Moradabad rail route

1432. SHRI HARMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to lay down double line on Hapur-Moradabad rail route; if so, the time schedule and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Railways are aware that passengers trains and goods train both run late by several hours due to single railway line there resulting in undue delay in the transportation of goods; and

(c) if so, whether Railways propose to make specific provisions in the budget to convert this line in the next two years, if not, the reasons therefor?

Railway Wagons

† 1433. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wagons purchased by railways during proceeding years are unfit to be run on the railway tracks of the country due to their weak structure;

(b) if so, the total number of such wagons alongwith the time of their purchase and cost thereof; and

(c) the parts of the country where these wagons are lying unutilised?

Creation of new Railway Zones

1434. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Experts Committee has recommended for creation of new railway Zones;

(b) if so, the details of such recommendations made by the committee;

(c) if not, the circumstances and detailed reasons for creation of new railway Zones;

(d) whether vizag Division could have been merged with S.C. Railway Zone, Secunderabad; and

(e) if not, the detailed reasons for not merging Vizag Division with South Central Railway Zone, Secunderabad?

**Harassment of senior citizens availing
rail concession by ticket checking
Staff**

1435. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of documents prescribed for age verification of senior citizens availing concession;

(b) whether Election Identity Card with age could be accepted as age proof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether to save senior citizens from regular harassment with heavy penalties and collecting full fares once again by treating them as Ticketless Travellers, Govt. will introduce a rule to collect only the concession given to them in the event of their not being in a position to produce prescribed documents for age proof; and

(e) if not, what other remedial measures could be assured?

Use of plastic sleepers by Railways

† 1436. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering to use plastic sleepers in place of wooden and RCC sleepers being used presently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what would be its quality;

(c) whether plastic sleepers will be manufactured as per requirement;

(d) if so, the names of places where factories are proposed to be set up for manufacturing such sleepers and what would be the annual production in each factory?

Material used in rail coaches

1437. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that material used to build a rail coach is tested and accepted on its fire retardant capabilities;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that three coaches of Frontier Mail were engulfed within fifteen minutes of fire in May, 2003; and

(c) whether Government have inquired into the circumstances, which led to the fire of three coaches, and if so, the complete details thereof?

Rear view mirrors in locomotives

1438. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rear view mirrors have been provided in all the electric as well as diesel locomotives of the Indian Railways in order to enable the engine driver to determine the positions of the coaches/wagons beyond the engine;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) steps contemplated by Government to provide such rear view mirrors in every engine so that incidents like fire which engulfed the three coaches of Amritsar bound Frontier Mail killing 36 passengers recently could have been noticed by the engine driver?

MoU between Railtel and BSNL

1439. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Railtel Corporation of India (Rail Tel) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) for sharing bandwidth and other telecommunications infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the details of the communication network proposed to be established with this agreement?

Cleaning drive at railway stations

1440. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have conducted any study to know the impact of entrusting the job of cleaning Railways station to private hands;

(b) whether railways propose to extend this 'clean' drive to other important station in other parts of the country;

(c) whether everything is going according to the expectation of the Railways in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

Walkie Talkie sets to crew in Trains

1441. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the satellite phones in all the zones and Divisional Headquarters have been installed;

(b) the fate of the proposal of Railways for giving at least five Walkie Talkie sets to the crew of all trains;

(c) in how many trains Walkie-Talkie sets have been introduced; and

(d) by when the Ministry is going to instal the same in the remaining trains?

Introduction of new trains

1442. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have already introduced fifty new trains, so far, during this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more such trains with provision for luxurious travel are likely to come up in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps taken/proposed to be taken address the concerns of railways safety before the introduction of so many additional trains which would put mounting pressure on an already overburdened system?

Failure to provide safety to passengers

† 1443. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have miserably failed to provide comprehensive safety to the railway passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government intend to provide safe rail journey to railway passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Railway zone for Kerala

1444. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have received any proposal from the Kerala Government requesting to allot a Railway Zone exclusive for Kerala; and

(b) whether Railways are aware that difficulties in getting due share to Kerala are being experienced because of the absence of an exclusive Railway zone?

Recommendations of CRS

1445. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) details of the recommendations made by Commission of Railway Safety during the last three years on each rail accident;

(b) details of the recommendations accepted for implementation and those rejected and those pending consideration; and

(c) reasons for non acceptance and the time by which decision would be taken on the recommendations pending consideration?

Departure of Rajdhani Express from Howrah

1446. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: SHRI KARENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi bound Rajdhani Express left Howrah before the time indicated on confirmed tickets on 25th May, 2003 leaving about 120 passengers stranded;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if there was some change in timing, the reasons why the confirmed ticket holders could not be informed about the same over the phone/addresses indicated in their reservation forms and could not the diversion of the train by the Main Line resulting in preponing of its departure taken effect from a date on which all reserved tickets could have been issued bearing the revised timing of departure?

CAG's remarks on railway

1447. SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN RAO:

SHRI MANOJ

BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Comptroller and Auditor General of India in a report has revealed that the Railway Administration are not having complete and authentic records pertaining to the railway bridges in the country and that this is likely to hamper the monitoring work of repair and renovation of the railways bridges;

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

(c) steps proposed to be taken in this regard so as to take up the work of repairing and, where necessary, rebuilding the bridges many of which are century old?

Maintenance of locos

1448. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that C.A.G. is extremely critical in its reports for 2003 regarding 'inferior quality of regular scheduled maintenance' of Locos;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether the accident of Golcoonda Express on 2nd July, 2003 was due to failure of brakes; and

(c) if so, whether the loco was hundred percent fit before it was put on track?

Ahmedabad-Mumbai railway line

1449. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways accept the fact that the existing capacity of Ahmedabad-Mumbai Railway line has been over utilised;

(b) whether Railways consider to augment the capacity of this line by providing additional track; and

(c) if so, by when this project will be taken up?

Stay orders by caterers and vendors

1450. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details with name of stations (division wise) on each zonal Railways where the Catering/vending contractors have obtained stay orders from different Courts of law against the decision of enhancement of the licence fee from 3 percent to 12 percent?

Pension plan for railway employees

1451. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted a redefined contribution based pension-plan for railway employees;

(b) if so, the details of the new pension plan, and how it is different from the previous pension plan for railway employees and modifications introduced in the new plan, if any?

Works under Central Road Fund

1452. SHRI MATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways Safety Fund created in 2001 is supposed to finance manning of unmanned level crossing and conversion of level crossings into road over/under bridges;

(b) whether funds received from Central Road Fund from 1999 to 2002 were not fully utilised for the specified purposes and whether a huge balance of Rs. 393.00 crores was kept unused at the end of 2001-2002; and

(c) whether a large number of such works under the CRF are still pending to be executed in Karnataka, and if so, the reasons therefor?

Replacement of level crossing in U.P.

1453. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of level crossing in Uttar Pradesh as on 31st March, 2003 which qualify for replacement with road over bridge/road under bridge on 50 percent cost sharing basis with the State Government/concerned local bodies;

(b) whether any specific level crossing for replacement have been identified; if so, the locations thereof;

(c) whether any plan for the purpose has been drawn for the next three years; and

(d) if so, the details of funds required to be made available by the State Government/

concerned local bodies over the said period, separately?

Cyber cafe at Railway stations

† 1454. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cyber express (Cafe) has been established recently at New Delhi Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish such cafe at other Railway Stations in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Railways bridge on rail line between Nirmali and Bhaptiyahi

† 1455. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated expenditure on the railways-bridge under construction for the proposed rail-line between Nirmali and Bhaptiyahi of the Eastern-Central Railway and the provision of fund made in the current year's budget;

(b) the amount incurred on the construction of bridge and the details of the progress of work;

(c) whether the expenditure on inauguration programme of the bridge is also included in it, if so, the amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(d) the target laid down for the completion of this bridge and the proposed rail-line?

Sharing of project cost by Maharashtra in MUTP

1456. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects in Mumbai Urban Transport project phase II (MUTP) to be taken up and the approximate expenditure thereof;

(b) whether the Maharashtra State Government has agreed to share 50 percent of the projects cost; and

(c) when the work of the projects would start?

Mining activity near Jodhpur Delhi rail track

1457. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Konkan rail accident which occurred recently had taken place after the special holiday train hit boulders and debris from a landslide;

(b) whether similar landslide or subsidence are taking place in Makrana where mining is common and mining activity in the vicinity of the Jodhpur-Delhi railway track is in clear violation of stipulated norms; and

(c) if so, what specific steps have been taken by Government to see the safety of all the trains including super fast trains which run on these tracks?

Stability of rail routes

1458. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Corporation has admitted for the first time that its 200-km rail route falls under an instability zone;

(b) whether with repeated incidents the running of bullet train to ply on the tracks has proved unsafe; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to make the rail journey safe on these vulnerable tracks?

STD booths to educated unemployed

1459. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to accord priority to the educated unemployed youths while making allotments for STD booths, stalls and travel agencies etc, on railway stations in view of the growing unemployment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) state wise number of beneficiaries during the last three years?

Justification of new projects of Railways

1460. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in terms of Rules 201 and 204 of Railway Financial Code (Vol. No. 1) is it necessary that a new project should be financially justified and that the rate of return (RCR) should not be less than 10% of the estimated cost of the project;

(b) if so, why the Railway Board sanctioned the gauge conversion work on Yelahanka-Chikballapur-Bangarpet section which resulted in an infructuous expenditure of more than Rs. 60.00 crores after the project was abandoned midway as commercially unviable; and

(c) what are the reasons for the railways not providing funds for bonafide and commercially viable projects like Hassan-Mangalore broad gauge conversion for the last 10 years?

Bidar-Gulbarga railway line

1461. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated cost of the proposed Bidar-Gulbarga railway line;

(b) when the foundation stone for the above project was laid;

(c) the amount allocated for the above project in the Budget of 2003-2004;

(d) whether survey work has been initiated;

(e) if so, by when, the survey work would be completed;

(f) what is the extent of land required to be acquired; and

(g) whether the land acquisition process has started?

Rail roko agitation in Balasore

1462. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Rail-roko agitation was staged at Balasore in Orissa by Balasore Nagarika Adhikara Surakashva Sangathan for fulfillment of their various long pending demands; and

(b) if so, what are their demands and how far these have been met and factors hindering progress in implementation?

Newspaper supplied in Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express

1463. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of newspapers being supplied to the passengers in each Shatabdi and Rajdhani Express trains on all Railways at present; and

(b) the name of the contractors/suppliers thereof?

Delay in Settlement of claims of train accidents

1464. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the miserable plight of the next of kin of those killed in train disasters at Khanna in November, 1998, Sirhind in December, 2000 and Bomb blast in Dhanbad in March 2002, who are still awaiting settlements of their claims; and

(b) if so, how the claims in respect of those killed in Rajdhani Express on September 9, 2002, have been settled, whereas claimants of earlier accidents from November 1998 onwards are still to be paid?

Vacant posts in Nagpur Railway Division

1465. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of posts of gangmen, gatemen, loco running and traffick running staff are vacant in Nagpur Railway Division of Central Railway and it is affecting day to day work;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways proposed to fill up these vacant posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Recommendations of enquiry Commission

1466. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) No. of accidents took place in last three years (zone-wise);

(b) no. of enquiry Commissions constituted so far;

(c) what are the main recommendations and findings; and

(d) what action the Government has taken so far on these recommendations?

Approval for GM potato

1467. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the statement of Dr. Manju Sharma, Head of Department of Biotechnology broadcasting by BBC that Genetically Modified (GM) potato is expected to be approved within in the next six months; and

(b) if so, whether the health environment and safety aspects of GM Potato have been evaluated?

Promoting S&T through NGOs in Assam

1468. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have supported NGOs in Assam financially to promote science and technology in the State;

- (b) if so, which are the beneficiaries;
- (c) whether any assistance has been given to Assam Science Society and its districts branches; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Projects under STED in Tamil Nadu

1469. SHRI THANGA TAMIL
SELVAN:
SHRI R. KAMARAJ:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is only 33 locations all over the country where projects under Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development are functioning to undertake training to local youths for enabling self employment;
- (b) the details of such projects, under STED Scheme, in Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether Government have any proposal to setup micro enterprises under STED during the Tenth Five Year Plan in Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

Promoting Research output

1470. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI EKANATH K.
THAKUR:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the research output in India does not match with the scientific and technology manpower community in India;
- (b) whether because of this, India has slipped to the 21st place in 2003 from the 13th place in 2002; and

- (c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to promote the research output in India?

Promotion of S&T

1471. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to promote research activities in the field of Science and Technology during the last five years;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to encourage students in schools and colleges to take up Science and Technology, considering that there is a decline in the number of students taking up Science and Technology discipline in schools and colleges; and
- (c) the details of funds allocated and spent by Government during the last five years to set up labs and to help spreading of Science and Technology in the nooks and corners of the country?

Technique for examination DNA

1472. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that scientists of CCMB, Hyderabad, have discovered a new technique for examination DNA;
- (b) if so, the details of this new technique; and
- (c) how it would help in catching the poachers of animals?

Investment in Biotechnology

1473. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many investors are showing keen interest for investing on biopharmaceuticals, bioinformatics and bioservices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of investment expected to get in the country during the next three years; and

(d) the investment that the biotechnology got since 1997; year-wise?

Fuel Cell Technology

1474. GEN (RETD.) SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 5243 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 2003 and state:

(a) whether research work on various R&D aspects of fuel cell technology is being progressed towards their production on a commercial scale; and

(b) whether there is any co-ordination in this regard with other Government Ministries, especially Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Road Transport and Highways?

Technologies by CSIR

1475. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the specific technologies developed by CSIR during the last five years;

(b) how many technologies have been patented during these years;

(c) how many of these technologies have been actually transferred for commercial exploitation; and

(d) the details of procedure adopted for selecting projects for research, co-ordination established with academics, industries and others?

Cyclone forecasting

1476. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism to forecast cyclones in advance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of days in advance cyclone forecasting is being done presently;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the accuracy of cyclone forecast; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Establishment of National Institute of Environment Health and Sciences

†1477. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have suggested to establish National Institute of Environment, Health and Sciences and its regional institute all over India, keeping in view the ill effect of air pollution, water pollution and hospital wastes on health; and

(b) if so, the framework of such institutions and the annual expenditure to be incurred on them?

**Setting up steel and alumina plants
in Orissa**

1478. MISS PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether 19 companies have submitted their proposals to set up steel and alumina plants in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the status of all proposals and reactions of Government thereto?

Subsidy to steel exporters

† 1479. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel producing group of American Companies have alleged that Government is providing subsidy to steel exporters due to which steel industry of America is at stake; and

(b) if so, the total subsidy which is being provided to steel exporters along with reasons therefor?

**Production and export of coal based
sponge iron**

1480. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the largest coal based sponge iron producer in the world;

(b) if so, the major producers of coal based sponge iron and their production and exports during 2001-02 and 2002-03; and

(c) the targets fixed for production and export during 2003-04?

Evaluation of Central Scheme of NRC

1481. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:
Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government/Planning Commission has conducted evaluation studies on the Central Sector Scheme of National Reconstruction Corps (NRC); if so, the details of such evaluation studies, findings thereof and the action taken thereon;

(b) whether any such study has made detailed impact assessment of the NRC; and

(c) whether Government propose to retain the scheme and extend the coverage of more districts under the scheme?

Sports Centres in M.P.

† 1482. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up sports centres in all the districts of Madhya Pradesh to promote sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the allotment of budget; and

(c) by when these sports centres are likely to start functioning?

**Educating athletes about banned
substances**

1483. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that around 50 Indian sportsperson have tested positive to various banned substances;

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

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether most of those sportspersons who have tested positive have pleaded their ignorance about the substances which had put them in the dock;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to initiate steps to educate sportsperson about the drug menace; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Nehru Yuvak Kendras in Arunachal Pradesh

1484. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Nehru Yuvak Kendras functioning at present in Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) the details of facilities being provided by these kendras to the Youths of the State;

(c) the details of funds allotted for setting up more NYK in the State during 2003-2004?

Making National Youth Commission a permanent body

1485. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of making the National Youth Commission a permanent body;

(b) if so, when it would be done and what are the broad parameters of the subjects this Commission would address; and

(c) whether to give fillip to sports and games, Government would nominate a Member to this Commission having proven expertise of this subject?

Proposal for world half marathon

1486. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to host World half-marathon in 2004; if so, the details of the event;

(b) what is the number of marathon runners expected to participate in the event; and

(c) whether the International Association of athletics Federation would host this event?

Supporting hockey team for olympic medal

1487. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government Plan to consolidate on the recent success of the Indian hockey team; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to support the team in its quest for an Olympic medal?

Assistance to Assam

1488. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial grants extended to Assam for youth affairs, and sports during the last three years; year-wise; and

(b) the details of financial assistance proposed to be provided for the same during the current budget?

SAI infrastructure in Jharkhand

1489. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sports Authority of India have set up full fledged infrastructure in Jharkhand for promotion of sports and games and also be provide appropriate training facilities for promotion of athletes in the state:

(b) if so, the details of such infrastructure set up in the State alongwith its existing activities/achievements and long term plans; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Promotion of sports in Himachal Pradesh

† 1490. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of directions issued by Government to promote sports particularly for rural and hilly areas;

(b) whether any amount is likely to be sanctioned to Himachal Pradesh during 2003-04 for construction of stadium and sport field to promote sports; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider to sanctioned an amount of Rs. 5 lac for building up a stadium at senior Secondary, Jangala in order to promote sports among children;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Welfare of Indian sports persons of past glory

1491. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) what action Government have taken for the welfare of the Indian sports persons of past glory like an Ex hockey player whose story appeared in the media recently; and

(b) whether Government have extended any financial assistance to him; if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 26th July, 2003
Sravana 4, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X
(MInistry-wise)

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