

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the December 1, 2005/Agrahayana 10, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Coal; Communications and Information Technology; External Affairs; Labour and Employment; Ocean Development; Overseas Indian Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Science and Technology; Shipping, Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions —155

Training activities by KVIC

890. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the training activities provided by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) during the current year, State-wise;

(b) the details of loan, subsidies provided by KVIC during the current year for proposals on the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the details of loan default cases for projects approved by KVIC in the above State during the last two years?

Trade fairs in rural areas

891. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to organise trade fairs in rural areas for extension of agro and rural industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of districts to organise trade fairs during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(c) the funds required for organising these fairs in districts selected for the purpose and the manner in which these funds are proposed to be mobilised?

PMRY in Assam

892. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total loan disbursed by the banks under the PMRY in Assam since 2000-01 till date, bank-wise, year-wise;

(b) whether any irregularity has been noticed in disbursement of loan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government against the defaulters?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Khadi units in Rajasthan

893. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of units established in Rajasthan by Khadi and Village Industries Commission during the existing plan period;
- (b) the employment generated thereby;
- (c) whether any target has been fixed to set up new industries in Rajasthan, during the remaining period of Tenth Plan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Separation of nuclear facilities

894. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for separation of nuclear facilities as civil and military;
- (b) if so, the details including the reason for above separation and the present status of the proposal;
- (c) if so, whether there is any proposal to allow private/marketing forces in civil nuclear programme; and
- (d) the share of nuclear energy in the total power generation and power utilization scenario of the country as on today, State-wise, category-wise?

Export of nuclear power reactors

895. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that international market has opened up for India for the export of low-cost small and medium size nuclear

power reactors in the light of the US co-operation in the nuclear energy sector;

- (b) if so, what the NPCI is aiming to do in the existing new and favourable scenario to sell India's small sized nuclear reactors to the world; and

- (c) the tentative cost in developing a SMR in India in comparison to China?

New nuclear power stations

896. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have given clearance to four sites for nuclear power stations as the technology flow from Indo-US deal on nuclear power is expected to come through; and

- (b) if so, the details of the four locations cleared and the pre-project activities?

Lifting of ban on export of dual-use Nuclear technology

897. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Canada, like USA and UK, has lifted ban on export of dual-use nuclear technology to India;

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

- (c) the likely share of Canada for co-operation in our nuclear programme and the projects likely to be covered during the next three years?

Increase of power generation capacity

†898. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government propose to raise the atomic energy based power generation capacity of India to 2000 megawatts in the coming fifteen years;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to prevent any Chernobyl like accident while using the radio-active fuel on a large scale;

(c) Government's plan to increase the capacity utilization of the existing atomic energy based power generating plants and to make the safety measures more comprehensive and efficient; and

(d) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Ex-Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board had raised some objections regarding safety norms of the atomic power plants?

Revision of present system of royalty on coal

†899. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the present system of royalty on coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when a new rate of royalty is likely to be implemented;

(d) the details of losses occurred to the State Governments for not carrying out the amendments in the rate of royalty;

(e) whether Government propose to compensate State Governments for this loss; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

E-auction for coal

900. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce E-auctions for coal consumers in the core sectors, other than power;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Tariff Commission under the Ministry of Finance, is working out modalities such as pricing mechanisms, etc.;

(c) whether any target has been set by the Ministry of Coal for 2005-06 for E-auctioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Dis-satisfaction among persons displaced by land acquisition

901. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the wide spread dis-satisfaction among the population displaced by acquisition of land for coal mines at the announcement by authorities in Government and Coal India Ltd. to the effect that jobs would not be provided against displacement as was done earlier and the attempts by subsidiaries of Coal India to acquire agricultural lands of villages in coal bearing areas by leaving out the homesteads of populous villages within acquisition to avoid giving rehabilitation benefits like employment; and

(b) if so, the measures being considered by Government to remedy the situation?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Coal mining by private companies

†902. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to allow the entry of private companies in the field of coal mining;

(b) whether applications have been received from any private company or companies in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) Government's policy in this regard?

Coal-blocks in the country

†903. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major coal-blocks in the country and their locations, State-wise;

(b) the number of coal-blocks located in Jharkhand;

(c) the total estimated reserve of coal in the country; and

(d) the amount of coal reserve in Jharkhand?

TRAI's concern over broadband connectivity

904. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TRAI has expressed its concern over the low broadband connectivity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action/ steps taken by the Central Government to address this concern of the TRAI?

Connecting villages through satellite phones

905. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to link over 14,000 inaccessible villages in remote areas of the country by the end of 2007 through satellite phones;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government have earmarked Rs. 105.72 crore to be spent in the next two years for this; and

(c) if so, the number of identified villages in each State for this project?

Setting up of Mega Semi-Conductor FAB in Andhra Pradesh

906. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Central Government for setting-up of Mega Semi-conductor FAB in Andhra Pradesh and further requested for equity contribution for the project to boost the potentialities of chip making and to develop hardware capabilities in the field of Information Technology;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Transformation in MTNL/BSNL

907. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL and BSNL are unable to match the state of the art service provided by private players in wireless telecommunication, thereby fast losing the ground to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof with comparative figures for the last three years;

(c) whether while third generation mobile phones and innovative add-on services are the norm with the private telecom players, MTNL still dispenses lack-luster service and first generation CDMA phones to its 'Garuda' customers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to bring about attitudinal transformation in MTNL and BSNL so that, their adoptability keeps pace with the technological trends?

E-governance common service centres in villages

908. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up E-governance common service centres in one lakh villages by next year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the proposal;

(c) the scope of services being planned to be offered through these centres; and

(d) whether these centres would have any adverse impact on employees of

traditional Government offices situated in local levels?

Representations of private cellular operators

909. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private cellular operators have made several representations to Government against undue benefits including Access Deficit Charges (ADC) being given to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) whether these benefits including ADC being given to BSNL will end up in making 60 million odd mobile subscribers to subsidize telephony cost of 40 million odd BSNL subscribers;

(c) if so, the reasons for creating unlevelled playing field by favouring BSNL; and

(d) what steps are being taken to stop such benefits forthwith derived from other cellular operators?

Review in IT Act to address cyber crimes

910. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed changes in the IT Act will address the spurt in cyber crimes and data theft/pilferage by staffers of Call Centres;

(b) whether the proposed changes include deletion of 'hacking' giving Government sweeping powers to monitor

internet, easing liabilities of network service providers and not bringing in a specific data protection law; and

(c) whether enforcement of IT Act needs complementary support of IPC, Contract Act and Consumer Protection Act?

Decline in the Wireline phones

911. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of installation and servicing of wireline phone is very expensive as compared to other Mobile, Fixed Wireless Phones (FWPs);

(b) if so, the details of cost of installation, servicing and income from a wireline phone *vis-à-vis* a Mobile/FWP/WLL phone;

(c) whether there has been a sharp decline of wireline phones during the last one year as compared to others phones; and

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

Creation of Ombudsman for telecom sector

912. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been proposed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to create an Ombudsman for telecom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the mechanism to address issues in the telecom sector without having to go to courts?

Rural tele-density

913. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority has submitted recommendations for augmenting rural tele-density;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a huge mismatch between urban tele-density and rural tele-density; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken to correct the situation?

Indo-US cyber security

914. SHRI RAASHID ALVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of IT has established a framework for information security in the country which would be steered by standardization testing and quality certification;

(b) whether there is a need to develop an information security policy directions/guidelines/standards, certification and accreditation mechanisms in tune with global practices that are brought for our country;

(c) whether India and US had set up Indo-US cyber security forum to exchange news on cyber security; and

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

Setting up of new telephone exchanges in various States

†915. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Digital Trunk Automatic and Modern Telephone Exchanges set up in various States during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the proposed exchanges to be set up in various States during the current year, State-wise and the number of telephone exchanges already set-up so far out of them; and

(c) the details of such telephone exchanges where the waiting-list has been cleared?

Conversion of Post Offices into Finance Bazars

†916. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to convert Post Offices into Finance Bazars for providing various financial services to the customers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

Expansion and upgradation of telecom services in Himachal Pradesh and Orissa

†917. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of work carried out in rural and urban areas of Himachal Pradesh and Orissa for the development, expansion and upgradation of telecommunication facilities during the last three years;

(b) whether the above work are going at slow pace in rural areas;

(c) if so, Government's response thereon and the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the extent of success achieved after taking such measures?

New telephone exchanges in Himachal Pradesh and Orissa

†918. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges installed in Himachal Pradesh and Orissa during the last three years; district-wise and year-wise;

(b) the district-wise details of the telephone exchanges to be installed in above States during 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

FDI in telecom sector

919. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the decks for increasing the limit of foreign direct investment in telecom sector from 49 to 74 per cent;

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

(c) whether Government have addressed the clarifications sought by the stakeholders, including cellular companies and equipment manufacturers before clearing the decks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Laying of sub-marine cable

920. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the VSNL has commenced cable laying operations of its sub-marine cable system linking Mumbai and other countries;

(b) if so, the progress achieved so far; and

(c) the cost incurred by Government for this purpose?

Foreign control over telecom sector

921. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether increase in foreign direct investment in telecom sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent may result in the foreign control of the telecom sector in the country;

(b) if so, whether the foreign control of telecom sectors in the country has been approved by the Parliament;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether steps would be taken so that the above hike in foreign direct investment would be implemented after the approval of Parliament?

Teledensity in the country

922. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of teledensity achieved in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is proposed to introduce uniform call-tariff across the country; and

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

Launching of warehousing and order processing services

923. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts in India is planning to launch warehousing and order-processing services for the industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the department has already launched logistic service under the brand name 'Logistic Post' in seven States; and

(c) if so, the details of the new warehousing services to be offered?

Requirement of IT software professionals

924. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether NASSCOM has estimated requirement of 1.1 million IT software professionals by the year 2008;

(b) if so, presently the number of total employees and engineers (IT and non-IT related disciplines separately) in the IT sector of India;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the job assigned to engineers in IT sector can be done by other graduates also; and

(d) if so, what would be the requirement of engineering degree/diploma holders (IT and non-IT related disciplines separately) in IT sector, year-wise till 2008?

Legal and enforcement framework for data protection

925. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the legal and enforcement framework for data protection in India is not upto the world standard; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that PHDCCI has also called upon Government to formulate stricter and stringent laws to strengthen BPO sector?

Shifting of ITI from Bangalore to New Delhi

926. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to shift the corporate office of the Indian Telephone Industries from Bangalore to New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Structure of payments of FWP of BSNL

927. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Access Deficit Charges (ADC) are applicable for all inter-circle calls made to and received from Fixed Wireless Phones (FWPs) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL);

(b) if so, in what manner the ADC payments are structured in case of FWPs of BSNL;

(c) whether any outgo from this category to later on re-routed back to BSNL in the form of ADC subsidy; and

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

Increase in the cost of rural telephony and P.C.O. call charges

928. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone lines of Fixed

Wireless Phones (FWPs) and PCO lines in rural areas are recognized as WLL (Mobile) phones thereby increasing the cost of rural telephony and PCO call charges;

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

(c) what would be the impact of the recognition of FWPs as WLL(M) phones on national teledensity targets of 250 million by the year 2007; and

(d) whether DoT has drawn any estimations towards the same and in what manner Government plan to negotiate the impact of this change in policy conditions?

Complaints of misuse of FWP telephones

929. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of subscribers of Fixed Wireless Phones (FWPs) as on 31st December, 2004 and the number of subscribers as on 26th August, 2005 when these phones were brought under the 'Limited Mobile' category;

(b) the number of complaints of misuse of FWP telephones received so far with the nature of complaints;

(c) whether Government have issued a generic directive treating FWP services as Limited Mobile Services without proper technical examination;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government would reconsider its directives keeping in view that FWP phones and landline phones are identical, almost have equal weight etc. and if not, the reasons therefor?

Making Jangla telephone exchange operational

†930. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone exchange of Jangla, in the district of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh usually remains out of order resulting great disturbance to the telephone consumers whose numbers start with 58 and 59;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even after the inspection made by higher officers of telephone department no improvement has been noticed in the situation till now;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action-plan made to completely place this exchange in order; and

(d) the instructions given/being given to the officers to keep this exchange fully operational keeping in view the needs of this hilly area?

Penalty on the private operators

†931. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that faulty mobile service has become incurable;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to improve the mobile service;

(c) whether Government are also aware of the fact that the proposal to penalize the operators have been put in shelves, if so, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether it is a fact that mobile operators are providing faulty services because TRAI has no authority to penalize them and Department of Tele-Communications is unconcerned about it; if so, the steps taken by Government to check it?

Internet and e-mail facilities in the post offices

†932. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that post offices in rural and backward tribal areas of the country have been provided with computer and internet facilities;

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

(c) whether Government have found out the reasons for non-distribution of mail within a given time; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government have prepared any action plan to equip all post offices across the country with the e-mail facility and by when the action plan is likely to be implemented in all the post offices across the country alongwith the factual details thereof?

Innovation in the field of Communication and I.T.

933. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are following and implementing the innovation in the field

of Communication and Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Setting up of National Digital Library

934. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have embarked on a massive project to set up a National Digital Library;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have given any time-frame for this project and how long it will take to complete it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Strategic paper on A.D.C.

935. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have brought out a "Strategic Paper" on levying of Access Deficit Charge (ADC) from private telecom operators;

(b) if so, the recommendations of the Strategic Paper;

(c) whether Government would implement the recommendation of the Strategic Paper in consultation with the Private Telecom Operators; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Officers of BSNL booked for corruption

936. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officers of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) have been booked for corruption by the CBI during the last three years;

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

(c) the departmental action taken so far against these tainted officers of BSNL?

Strength of NIC

937. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present strength of National Informatics Centre (NIC);

(b) whether there is any proposal to expand it; and

(c) what are the functions of NIC as of now?

Encouragement to foreign investors

938. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign investors have not shown encouraging investments in Indian telecom sector because of BSNL dictate in the sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that operators using GSM services attract more foreign

investors than operators using CDMA services; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to encourage foreign investors to invest in CDMA technology?

Interference on the role of TRAI on ADC

939. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been disputes between TRAI (regulator) and DoT (licensor) on the issue of Access Deficit Charges (ADC);

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

(c) whether it is a fact that ADC related problems are being handled by TRAI as concept of ADC was introduced/reviewed by them; and

(d) if so, the reasons that DoT is interfering in the role of TRAI on ADC?

Profit/loss of MTNL

940. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that from January, 2006 telephone calls from North to South and East to West in the country shall be local calls;

(b) if so, the details of loss/gains to be obtained by telephone department in the country;

(c) how far the common man shall be benefited; and

(d) what shall be a call charges to meet loss of STD calls?

(e) if not, till when this situation will remain so?

Irregularities in providing the PCO sets in Rajasthan

†941. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a great deal of difficulty is being experienced in getting PCO connection at panchayat levels in rural areas of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that irregularities are also being committed in the matter of quality of sets provided while giving new connections; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

Expansion of mobile services in Rajasthan

†942. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BSNL's mobile connections in the State of Rajasthan as on 31st December, 2004;

(b) whether the mobile service has already been started in all Districts and Tehsil headquarters in the State of Rajasthan;

(c) the scheme for expansion of the mobile service in the State of Rajasthan;

(d) whether mobile connections from BSNL are available on demand in the State of Rajasthan; and

Changes in TRAI's recommendations

943. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four-member DoT Committee set up to look into TRAI's recommendations with regard to spectrum rejected the demands for auction of 3G spectrum citing previous experience in telecom licensing;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied the recommendations made by DoT Committee;

(c) whether Government propose any changes in the recommendations made by DoT Committee; and

(d) the disadvantages of TRAI's recommendation for additional charges by way of 'Y' component?

Indian delegation in Iraq

944. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons constituting Ministerial as well as non-Ministerial delegation from India visited Iraq since 1990, date-wise showing separately those who called on the then Iraqi President Saddam Hussain and those who called on his Minister Tariq Aziz and those who called both duly indicating dates of the respective meetings; and

(b) the details of the declared purposes of visits of the respective delegations?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Discussion between Indian Prime Minister and Pakistani President

945. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister met Pakistani President during his visit to USA in September, 2005 and discussed Kashmir issue extensively;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the conclusions arrived at after the discussions?

Resolution prepared by USA on atrocities on Indian Dalits

946. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware a resolution prepared by the US House Committee on International Relations and US Human Rights Commission is proposed to be Tabled in the US Congress which seeks to highlight the alleged atrocities committed on Dalits and Tribals in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Frisking of Indian leaders at American airports

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

(a) whether Government have paid attention to continuous incidents of frisking prominent Indian leaders visiting USA at the airport therein an objectionable manner;

(b) if so, whether Government have approached the Government of USA in this regard;

(c) the reaction of the Government of USA in this regard; and

(d) the further action being taken by the Government in this regard?

Agenda of the SAARC Summit

948. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister attended the SAARC Summit at Dhaka, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the leaders of the other countries participated in the Summit;

(c) the agenda of the Summit and the consensus arrived at the Summit;

(d) the features of the joint declaration made at the end of the Summit; and

(e) the view points put forth by India at the Summit and the response of other countries thereto?

Terrorist training camps in neighbouring countries

†949. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether training camps are being organised by terrorists in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and PoK;

(b) if so, the number of such camps being organised, country-wise;

(c) the average trainees being trained in each camp; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the measures being taken by Government to close such camps?

Instructions to officials not to travel to or through France

950. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had withdrawn the advice to officials not to travel to or through France;

(b) if so, whether Government are satisfied with the arrangements made in France; and

(c) if so, the steps initiated by France in this regard?

Indian threat to pull out from US peacekeeping operations

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India's delegate at the 60th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York has said that "India might pull out of UN peacekeeping operations in future if the country continued to be kept out of the decision-making process; and

(b) if so, whether it is in accordance with our established foreign policy?

Construction of Buddha statue by Bhutan

952. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhutan proposes to build the world's largest Buddha statue;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the time-frame within which it would be started and completed;

(c) what is the status of such rock Buddha statue which was destroyed by the vandalism of Talibans at Bamyán in Afghanistan and whether the Afghanistan Government proposes to re-construct this statue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus service

953. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that both the Government have decided to defer the bus service between Amritsar and Nankana Sahib in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has been deferred temporarily or permanently; and

(d) by when it is expected to be started?

Discussion with Iranian Vice-President

954. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether former Minister of External Affairs had a meeting with Iran's Vice-President in Moscow in October last;

(b) if so, the nature of discussions held during the meeting and the conclusions arrived at; and

(c) the steps taken by the two countries to implement them?

American disagreement on Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project

955. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA showed its disagreement on Indo-Iran Pipeline Project;

(b) if so, whether this was taken up by the Prime Minister during his visit to USA with the US President; and

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

Bilateral talks during SAARC Summit

956. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister held any bilateral talks with the leaders of neighbouring countries at the sidelines of recently held SAARC Summit at Dhaka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the talks, country-wise?

Indian stand on IAEA Vienna vote

957. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recently held Joint Working Group meeting at Tehran Iran's Petroleum Minister has expressed that Iran expects India to make amends if there is a next vote of the IAEA in Vienna scheduled for 24th November, 2005;

(b) whether India considers that this statement is linked to the future prospects of the on-going energy dialogue between India and Iran; and

(c) whether India has formulated a strategy to remain passive by abstaining

from the forthcoming IAEA Vienna vote?

Joint Commission between India and Pakistan

958. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have decided to revive the Joint Commission, which has met only thrice since its inception in 1983;

(b) if so, whether a meeting of the Joint Commission has since been held;

(c) if so, by when and where; and

(d) the decision taken therein and the action since taken in pursuance thereof?

Modalities for implementation of Indo-US Nuclear Agreement

†959. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the modalities have been chalked out for implementation of Indo-U.S. Nuclear Agreement; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Indians in foreign jails

960. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 4,550 Indians are languishing in foreign jails in 84 cities globally;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to get them released from foreign jails;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the countries where the Indians are languishing in jails are denied access even to our embassies abroad; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Conveying of PM's view on terrorists to Pakistan President

961. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has conveyed a message to Pakistan President that "any terrorists can not be freedom fighters";

(b) if so, the reaction/response of the Pakistani President/Government in this regard; and

(c) the security steps set up by Indian Government from terrorist attacks during the current winter session when rehabilitation of earthquake sufferers are rapidly undertaken?

Outcome of the meeting of the Board of Trustees

962. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have convened a meeting of the Central Board of Trustees recently to take a decision on the Employees Provident Fund interest rate;

(b) if so, the decision taken in this meeting; and

(c) the demand of the Union Representative(s) in this regard?

Backward districts in country

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

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently marked two hundred districts in the country as backward ones;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for making them as backward ones;

(c) the names of these districts in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the number of families residing in these districts in each State?

Labour practices in Call Centres

964. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that according to NASSCOM more than 3,50,000 workers are employed in the BPO industry;

(b) if so, whether the labour practices of these Call Centres are in consonance with the existing labour laws;

(c) whether V.V. Giri National Institute of Labour have made some adverse comments about regulating the work force in such centres; and

(d) if so, the views of Government in this regard?

Industrial employment standing Orders Central Rules

965. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 438 given in Rajya Sabha on 15th July, 2004 and state:

(a) whether as per the decision to rescind notification GSR No. 936 (E) dated

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

10th December, 2003, a draft notification was issued by Ministry of Labour on 30th September, 2004;

(b) whether a tripartite meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Labour Secretary, Government of India to finalise the draft notification;

(c) if so, whether the final notification has been made to rescind the notification dated 10th December, 2003; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

New programme for unorganised sector workers

966. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have embarked on major new Government funded programmes for unorganized sector workers, and urban renewal;

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

(c) the projects identified for this purpose;

(d) whether Government have drawn up any action plan for additional resources for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Increase in the unemployment

967. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent report of the ILO has pointed out that in spite of growth in reducing poverty and improving the living conditions of the people, unemployment reached a record high in India; and

(b) if so, the response of Government in this regard?

Employees working in I.T. sector

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

(a) whether any representation have been received during the year 2005 from Central Trade Unions regarding the need to implement labour laws in the Information Technology (IT) sector;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) if so, whether, is any proposal to dilute the present labour laws in Information Technology sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total number of employees working in Information Technology sector under various categories for the last three years, category wise, State-wise and year-wise?

Implementation of Child Labour and Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986

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

(a) whether Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986 is functioning effectively towards total abolition of Child Labour, throughout India;

(b) the reasons for massive millions of child labourers still engaged, paving heavy hurdles for implementation of compulsory education for children of age 6 to 14 years;

(c) the details of the number of employees punished for violating Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act, 1986, State-wise during the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05;

(d) the details of measures already taken and proposed to be taken to curb the menace of evergrowing child labour in India; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Expenditure on employment exchanges

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

(a) the number of employment exchanges in the country, State-wise;

(b) the detail of expenditure incurred on these offices during last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the details of number of persons who have got employment through these employment exchanges, State-wise?

Social security for workers

971. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is need for social security for workers in unorganized sector;

(b) if so, what steps are being considered to ensure them minimum social security;

(c) the number of unorganized workers expected to be covered in the country;

(d) whether Government propose any financial allocation for the purpose; and

(e) if not, in what manner Government propose to meet the financial burden?

Bringing ITI's at International level

†972. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated any scheme to bring I.T.I's of the country to the international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of institutes along with the names of concerned States, selected for this purpose; and

(d) the total amount likely to be incurred therefor?

Changes in the labour laws

†973. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring changes in labour laws so as to accelerate economic pace in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any suggestions etc. in this regard from the National Manufacturing Competitive Council and other Organization;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

Employment exchanges in the country

†974. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise/employment exchange-wise total number of educational and professional unemployed registered in the records of different employment exchanges of the country as on 30th November, 2005;

(b) the district-wise number of unemployed persons increased in the country during the last three years till date; and

(c) whether Government have made any employment oriented policy in this regards; if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Persons registered with employment exchanges

975. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of employment exchanges in the country (State-wise);
- (b) the number of persons enrolled during the last three years (State-wise); and
- (c) the number of persons waiting for employment as on 30th June, 2005?

Reduction of interest on P.F.

976. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposed to reduce the rate of interest of Provident Fund during the year 2005-06; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Bungling in flood/famine relief work

977. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that every year reports of bungling in Muster Rolls during flood/famine relief works are reported and Officials and contractors in the name of poor labourers siphon off large sums of money; and
- (b) if so, what measures are being taken to curb such corrupt practices?

Pension and other benefits to the employees working in Labour Commissioner office, Indore

†978. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether after reinstating the people, who had been removed from service having 20 years in service and at age of 50 years in office of labour commissioner, Indore, their pay have been fixed;
- (b) if not, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether pensions have not been given to the people who have retired during this period and other benefits also have not been given; and
- (d) the reason for this delay and by when other benefit and pension would be given, and the details thereof?

Non-payment of wages to Indian by a Dubai based Company

979. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian workers employed by a construction company of Dubai have not been paid their salaries since last one year;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereon;
- (c) how many such cases have come into light during the last two years and what is the country-wise details of such cases; and
- (d) what action is being taken/would be taken by Government against the agencies involved in sending the workers illegally and what are the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Religious holidays

980. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of religious holidays at present being given to Central Government employees in the country;
- (b) the present position in this regard;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of restricted holidays instead of religious holidays; and
- (d) whether the new rule would come into effect from January, 2006?

New Annual Scheme for work assessment of IAS Officer

†981. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister had approved a New Annual Scheme for the assessment of works done by IAS Officers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when this provision would be made applicable?

Mid-career training programme

982. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering a proposal of mid-career training programmes for Central Secretariat Services officers and also sending select batches of officers to reputed international management institutes; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the scheduled date of commencement?

Exclusion of PSUs from the purview of Right to Information

983. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to exclude Public Sector Undertakings including banks and Insurance Companies from the purview of the Right to Information Act, 2005; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Departmental examination for Section Officers

984. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2610 given in Rajya Sabha on 18th August, 2005 and state:

- (a) whether a reference to UPSC for reconsideration of the decision and to hold Limited Departmental Competitive Examination (LDCE) 2005 for Section Officers and Private Secretaries has since been made by Department of Personnel and Training to Union Public Service Commission;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

- (d) the reaction of UPSC to the reference, if any received?

Anti-corruption drive by CVC

985. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Vigilance Commission has sought statutory powers from the Union Government to expedite the anti-corruption drive at high places and suggested creation of a "black brigade" to seize black money till the pendency of judicial process;

(b) if so, whether Government are also considering such request of CVC; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Compensatory holidays

986. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in European countries people get compensatory holiday if a national holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday but in India national holidays are not compensated;

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

(c) whether Government propose to give compensatory holiday to Government employees if a national holiday falls on Saturday or Sunday; and

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

Millennium Development Goals, 2000

†987. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the study reports prepared by the Action Aid with regard to Millennium Development Goals, 2000 in which it has been stated that the poor are still poor and the condition of providing the basic necessities has become worse;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that existing economic and industrial policy are the main cause for not achieving the target set in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reaction of Government thereto?

BIMARU States

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are called BIMARU States of the country;

(b) if not, facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rate of economic progress of these States has been found lower than the average of progress at national level; and

(d) if so, the rate of annual progress of the said BIMARU States as well as annual national progress rate recorded during last one decade?

GDP of States

†989. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large difference is being noticed in the State-level gross domestic products (GDP) of different States in the country;

(b) if so, the name of the State having minimum gross domestic products;

(c) the name of the State which has maximum gross domestic products; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the name of the States whose gross domestic products is below the average level of GDP?

Rashtriya Sama Vikas Yojana

990. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to consider the possibility of funding the Vijayawada-Ranchi National Highway road under the Rashtriya Sama Vikas Yojana as a special inter-State project;

(b) whether this would help in proper co-ordination between the States to effectively counter growing activities of the left wing ultras in the tribal-dominated districts of Orissa, Jharkhand etc. apart from developing the tribal belts of the States; and

(c) if so, the status of the proposal and the time-frame within which it would be sanctioned for execution?

Mid-term appraisal of Tenth Plan

991. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a mid-term appraisal of the economy, the Planning Commission has projected a GDP growth rate of 10 per cent during the Eleventh Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has also identified several risk factors which might hinder the growth process; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to address the same?

World Development Report-2006

992. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has lately come out with the World Development Report-2006, with Equity and Development as its theme;

(b) what position is held by India, in terms of 'equality' and in what manner it compares with inequality status of China, Pakistan and other Asian economies and the world average;

(c) whether Government have or are drawing out a plan of action to bring 'inequality' status in India to the average level in developed world; and

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

Training to drivers

†993. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering over preparing any plan with regard to providing training to drivers in view of the increase in road accidents in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the cities selected for this plan; and

(d) whether Government are considering to seek assistance from other agencies under the above Plan?

Early Warning System in Orissa

994. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Orissa is an island of natural disaster necessitating establishment of an early warning system;

(b) whether Government are in the process of establishing Tsunami Early Warning System in the country;

(c) if so, whether Chandipur in the district of Balasore in Orissa is the most appropriate place for installation of this warning system;

(d) whether the Central Government would consider installation of Tsunami Early Warning System in the above place or some other suitable place in the State at the earliest; and

(e) if so, the time-frame within which it would be done?

Upgradation of Seismology Department

995. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to upgrade Seismology Department with the latest state of the art electronic equipments to improve its earthquake monitoring network and detect tremors of smaller magnitude;

(b) whether it is a fact that Delhi falls under high seismic category (high risk category); and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government?

Microzonation of buildings

†996. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when the microzonation (to divide in small zones) work of easily

destructible buildings due to earthquake would be completed in the national capital;

(b) if already completed the details thereof; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be completed in other parts of the Country?

Proposals of voluntary organisations

997. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of voluntary organizations who submitted their proposals under Science and Society Division-Department of Biotechnology and Department of Science and Technology during the last three years;

(b) the action taken on the above said proposals;

(c) whether it is a fact that the proposals of voluntary organizations of Western Uttar Pradesh especially of Bulandshahar district are not being accepted; and

(d) the number of voluntary organizations of Bulandshahar district of Uttar Pradesh who have submitted their proposals and the action taken thereon?

Research assistance from Canada

998. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to seek assistance from Canada in the field of research;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discussion has been held between both the countries in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

By-passes on National Highways in Punjab

999. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the proposed by-passes being constructed on National Highways in Punjab; and

(b) the status in each case?

Investment in ports and shipping

1000. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to invest Rs. 61,000 crores on ports and Rs. 40,000 crores on shipping in the next ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government expects private players to pump in as much as Rs. 39,000 crores; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Inland Water Transport

1001. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme in force for developing Inland Water Transport in the country;

(b) if so, the features of the scheme;

(c) the names of the States in which it is in force;

(d) whether the State of Goa has given any proposal in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Road bridge across Godavari

1002. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Road Safety Forum has represented for the need for a Survey by Government and the NHAI for a Third road bridge across the River Godavari above Kovvur-Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what are the specific reasons cited by the Road Safety Forum in making this demand;

(c) what are the reasons cited by NHAI for not doing this survey;

(d) whether NHAI would try to meet the demand of the public in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Accidents on highways

1003. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of accidents on Highways in States is continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the number of such accidents that occurred during the last three years in the country and Rajasthan, year-wise;

(c) the number of persons killed and injured in the country and Rajasthan, year-wise;

(d) whether the number of road accidents is on the increase due to rash driving, over loading untrained driving,

drunken driving, driving without valid licence, etc.;

(e) if so, whether Government have taken certain measures to prevent such accidents in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Safety on National Highways

1004. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to set up a new regulatory body to oversee safety on the National Highways;

(b) whether Government are in the process of appointing a sub-committee that would recommend the structure and scope of this new organization and also recommend suitable amendment that need to be made in the existing laws to make national highways safe for travel;

(c) if so, whether a decision has been made to set up a universal safety fund; and

(d) if so, what are other main terms that the Committee would consider and by what time this Committee is likely to submit its recommendations?

Waterways proposals from Maharashtra

1005. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE:

PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had submitted 13 proposals for Inland Water Transport waterways, costing about Rs. 118.04 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many and which of them have since been approved indicating their approved cost; and

(d) the details of these proposals which are still pending and the progress made so far in respect thereof, when these proposals were mooted and the reasons for the delay?

Global Technical Regulations for Motor Vehicles

1006. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY :
Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country propose to join agreement on Global Technical Regulations for Motor Vehicles;

(b) if so, the number of countries who are members of the groups; and

(c) the advantages which would be available to our country after joining this group?

Users of National Highways

1007. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to implement a scheme to escort users of National Highways for their safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Hoardings alongwith national highways

1008. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of hoardings/display boards have been erected by advertisers alongwith national highways in Punjab causing various types of problems;

(b) if so, whether Government have laid down any specific policy in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

National highways in Punjab

1009. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of national highways in Punjab where the construction work/repairs are going on at present;

(b) the status of work in each case; and

(c) the agency through which the work is being done?

Global Technical Regulation for Motor Vehicles

1010. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to join 1998 agreement on Global Technical Regulations for Motor Vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the design

specifications of vehicles do not have to be changed to meet country specific regulations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Development of maritime sector

1011. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a comprehensive policy for the development of Maritime sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that more than thirty recommendations made by States were adopted at the meeting of the Maritime State Development Council; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Norms for national highways construction

1012. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make the norms related to construction of national highways more flexible;

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

(c) whether with this objective in view, Government are framing a new Model Concession Agreement (MCA) which provides for risk sharing between Government and the investors; and

(d) if so, the details of MCA?

Road proposal from Karnataka

1013. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government have sent any proposal for the sanction of Rs. 2300 crores for laying of four laning of Hassan-Bantwal Section of NH-48, and other four or six lane on NH-13, 63 and NH-48; and

(b) if so, the present status of the above proposal?

Inland waterways in Kerala

1014. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala have submitted a project for the Inland Waterways in Kerala;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether necessary sanctions have been accorded to the project;

(d) the estimated cost of this project and the amount sought from the Central Government;

(e) whether funds have been cleared towards the project;

(f) if so, details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Accelerated Road Development Programme

1015. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced a Special Accelerated Road Development programme for the North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the programme would be replicated in any other region of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Damage to National Highway due to flood

1016. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding the damage caused to the National Highways in the country on account of the recent floods;

(b) whether Government have undertaken the work of repairing/reconstructing these National Highways on portions thereof; and

(c) the details thereof, State-wise?

Upgradation of National Highways

1017. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to improve and upgrade existing National Highways in the country to make them all weather proof; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Works on east-coast road

1018. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the list of works undertaken stretch-wise under east-coast road and the progress made stage-by-stage on such works and the time-frame fixed for completion of pending works;

(b) whether it is a fact that in many places the quality of execution is not upto the mark warranting repairs and patch-work within few weeks of executions;

(c) whether it is a fact that many stretches even on completion are yet to be declared as National Highway; and

(d) if so, by when it would be done in such cases?

Golden Quadrilateral Project

1019. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Golden Quadrilateral National Highway Project with a huge investment of Rs. 54,000 crores was conceived by the previous Government and with a view to avoid malpractices and to speed up the project, it was monitored by the Prime Minister's Office;

(b) whether there is a slow-down of the project just because it was the pet scheme of the previous Government also whether there is a change in the monitoring mechanism and contractual arrangements of the previous Government; and

(c) whether transparency and honesty in tender deals and quality in execution would be ensured if so what means and

devices would be evolved?

Transfer of land for Toll Plaza

1020. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Haryana Government has backed out of its promise to transfer 21 acres land for Toll Plaza at Delhi-Gurgaon border;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such move;

(c) whether it is a fact that NHAI has already started work on levelling the construction site; and

(d) if so, what are the steps from Government to resolve the matter?

National Highway between Vallarpadam and Kalamassery

1021. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of the Kerala Government seeking sanction for National Highway project between Vallarpadam and Kalamassery to link with Vallarpadam Trans-shipment Terminal is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the time by which the sanction is likely to be accorded;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala have sought some engineering solutions from the National Highways Authority to reduce certain environmental impact; and

(d) if so, whether Government would consider to extend the assistance requested for?

Bifurcation of MMD

1022. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether demands have been made to bifurcate the MMD (Mercantile marine Department) under the Directorate General of Shipping;

(b) whether it is a fact that MMD has been delaying clearances of small firms all over the country;

(c) if so, what are the remedial steps proposed by Government to ensure that MMD gives the same priority and efficiency to small firms as it routinely does for large shipping firms; and

(d) the steps proposed to outsource the work of MMD for more efficiency?

Over-bridge at Gundugolanu

1023. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the demand of the Road Safety Forum of Andhra Pradesh for a pedestrian over-bridge at Gundugolanu on NH-5;

(b) whether NHAI is delaying in taking the forum into confidence;

(c) the steps proposed for a fresh review of the entire demand; and

(d) the reasons for not taking appropriate action in this matter?

CRF for Andhra Pradesh

1024. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh from the Central Road Fund (CRF) during the last one year;

(b) the details of the works sanctioned from the fund during the last one year in the State;

(c) the number of pending project proposals of the State in this regard with the Central Government; and

(d) the steps taken for the expeditious clearance of the scheme?

Detention of Indian Flag Ships

1025. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether of late Indian flag ships are being detained in overseas ports on flimsy technical grounds under 'Code 30' of the maritime manual;

(b) whether such minor deficiencies under 'Code 30' attributed to the detention of Indian ships abroad, do not render the ship unseaworthy or sub-standard; and

(c) whether according to international maritime industry, Indian flag-ships are house-kept much better than their foreign counterparts, if so, the reasons for this discrimination against Indian flagships by foreign port authorities?

Bridges on National Highways in Goa

1026. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the names of bridges under construction on National Highways in Goa;

(b) the number and names of bridges proposed to be constructed, if any, on National Highways in the State of Goa; and

(c) the estimated cost of each of the project?

Concession to SSI

†1027. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the concessions that have been given to small scale industries;

(b) whether measures have been taken to see that the large scale industries do not usurp the concessions meant for small industries; and

(c) the details thereof?

Credit Linked Capital Subsidy

1028. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a scheme on Credit Linked Capital Subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria fixed for getting assistance under the scheme; and

(d) the number of SSI units in Andhra Pradesh benefited by the scheme?

Grouping of industries

1029. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale behind the latest policy of Government to group small scale

industries with medium scale industries (SME's), thereby hoping that small would automatically graduate to medium;

(b) in what way Government presume that small scale industries would graduate to medium scale, by grouping the two categories together;

(c) what incentives are small scale industries being given to graduate to medium scale;

(d) what steps Government are taking to allay the fears of small scale manufacturers that this policy would allow the bigger industrialists to take away major benefits and incentives being given by Government; and

(e) whether Government plan to review this policy?

SME Bill

1030. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Bill which was ready in 2002, has not been passed;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the delay;

(c) whether raising the investment limit to Rs. 5 crore would help only 1 per cent of the SSIs as 98 per cent of SSIs are less than Rs. 10 lakh worth;

(d) the steps to be taken by Government for the benefit of SSIs with worth less than Rs. 10 lakh;

(e) the reasons for which the term 'tiny' is missing from the SME Bill;

(f) whether Government are not concerned with the problem of the tiny industries; and

(g) the plans of Government to help the unviable and sick SSIs?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sickness of SSIs

1031. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to check sickness of small scale industries at the initial stages instead of waiting for them turning sick and referring them to BIFR;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to formulate any schemes under which marginally sick units or units having stage of turning sick could get assistance from Government agency at initial stage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

SSI in States

†1032. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of small scale industries set up in different States of the country during the last three years till date, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the basic facilities Government proposed to be provided to promote small scale industries in the country?

SMED Bill

†1033. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the new definition of small industries in proposed Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill for the development of small and medium industries;

(b) whether any concrete steps have been taken up for fully safeguarding the interests of small and marginal undertakings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Launching of Satellites

1034. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO is planning to launch 10-12 satellites in the coming four years;

(b) if so, the details of the satellites that are going to be launched in the next four years; and

(c) what is the expected transponder capacity going to be increased with these launches?

Galileo Project

1035. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and European Union are set to sign a pact on Galileo project—a 30 satellites expected to be operational by 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is considered a real alternative to the American Global Positioning System;

(d) whether India's participation would guarantee availability of high quality signals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Delay in central sector projects

1036. SHRI MOOLCHAND

MEENA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI

REDDY:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether twelve central sectors projects costing Rs.100 crore and above have reported additional delays upto seventeen months during review in June, 2005;

(b) if so, whether as per latest report on execution of central projects released by his Ministry it has been pointed out that five of these are railway projects and three road transport and two power;

(c) if so, what are the main reasons of delay mentioned in the report;

(d) what steps are suggested to reduce this delay; and

(e) what are the other steps Government propose to take to complete these projects in time?

Modification of MPLADS

1037. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to modify amend or abrogate the MPs' Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS);

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

(c) what as per Government's perception, has been overall achievement of the MPLADS since its inception?

Projects received from Andhra Pradesh

1038. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects received by Government from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last one and a half year;

(b) whether any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received to clear pending projects;

(c) if so, the details of projects yet to be cleared by the Central Government; and

(d) the details of the funds disbursed for various centrally assisted schemes during the said period?

Reduction of grants for various Vidyapeeth/Universities

1039. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that around 34 sport competition games played at the Vidyapeeth/University level have put off cancelled due to Government's decision to reduce the grants for various Vidyapeeth/University in the country;

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

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken for the development of Sports infrastructure and competition at par with International standard?

Construction of sport complexes in Maharashtra

1040. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any policy to develop or construct sports complexes in the country according to the census;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are considering to construct modern sports complexes as well as sports infrastructure in various districts of Maharashtra for the promotion of various sports activities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of S&T

1041. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any new measures for the promotion of research in science and technology by bringing huge investment in this arena;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of research which have been found useful and cost effective in various sectors?

Match fixing rumours

1042. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Vigilance Team of ICC visited India in September

2005 when triangular series were played in Zimbabwe and there were some rumours of match fixing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the purpose of the visit of ICC Team;

(c) whether Government have enquired into the question of match fixing; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Monitoring of banned drugs

1043. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Sports personnel found guilty of taking banned drugs during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that in almost all cases, these boys and girls were sent to foreign countries for training under foreign coaches; and

(c) whether there is any system to monitor that banned drugs are not administered at the overseas places?

Expenditure for next Olympic Games

1044. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the time and venue of next Olympic Games;

(b) whether Government alongwith the State Government and the sports associations have been coaching our sports persons/athletes to win maximum number of medals;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for the same and the expenditure made so far;

(d) whether Central Government adopts the policy of "coach them young" as adopted successfully by China;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the achievements likely to be made therefrom; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 25th November, 2005
Agrahayana 4, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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