

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, the March 2, 2005/Phalguna 11, 1926 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Commerce and Industry; Defence; Home Affairs; Non-
Conventional Energy Sources; Power; Rural Development; Textiles)**

Total number of questions — 145

Amendments in Patent Act *vis-a-vis* TRIPS Agreement

156. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Swiss delegation headed by the Head of Bilateral Economic Relations (Jorg Al Reding) visited New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether they pressed for certain amendments to the Patent Act, so as to bring India within the ambit of the new regime stipulated in the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights Agreements of the WTO; and

(c) what are the specific amendments demanded by the delegation and Government's reaction thereto?

Legislation for setting up of SEZs

157. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI C. RAMACHAN-
DRAIAH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

has cleared the legislation for Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) what is the total number of SEZ's in operation in India, State-wise;

(c) how many more SEZ's are proposed to be set up, State-wise;

(d) how much FDI has come in so far in the SEZ's that are in operation; and

(e) what is the level of employment in these zones?

Steps to increase India's exports

158. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target set for the growth of industrial production and exports during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) the details of actual achievements made in this respect during the said period; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government to increase India's exports?

Modification of Press Note 18 of 1998

159. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

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

(a) whether to promote the inflow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Government have decided to withdraw or modify the restrictive provisions of Press Note 18 of 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the restrictive provisions relaxed, modified or withdrawn and how far these provisions have been or are proposed to be relaxed; and

(c) what were the interests and purposes of these restrictions and how these interests and purposes would be served under the new scenario?

Steps against anti-dumping restrictions

160. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to exercising pressure on the US and other developed nations to relax or withdraw anti-dumping restrictions imposed by them against India and other developing countries the WTO has permitted India and seven other nations to impose counter restriction fees;

(b) if so, the details of the counter measures permitted to India and others; and the anti-dumping restrictions in question; and

(c) what steps have since been taken by Government in pursuance thereof ?

Drug Industry's demand to review of Patents Ordinance

161. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drug industry had demanded a review and revision of the Patents Ordinance issued recently;

(b) if so, what were the main issues raised and specific demands made by the drug industry; and

(c) Government's response and reaction thereto?

Legislation for SEZs

162. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to introduce a legislation on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the current Parliament Session;

(b) if so, the details thereof and SEZs to be created in the State of Maharashtra;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Group of Ministers has been formed to look at the proposed legislation; and

(d) if so, the recommendations of the GoM and whether all the recommendations have been accepted?

Impact of Patent legislation on drug prices

163. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new patent regime will have impact on drug prices; and

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

Problems faced by seafood exporters

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

(a) whether it is a fact that our seafood exporters are facing certain problems as a result of imposition of anti-dumping duty by the US;

(b) if so, the problems in brief faced by our seafood exporters; and

(c) the action taken by Government to address their problems?

Export target for 2005-06

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

(a) whether it is a fact that to achieve the target of 1.5 per cent share in the global trade, India's exporters have to bring home US \$175 billion in the next five years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the exports during 2003-04 stood at US \$60 billion; and

(c) what is the export target set for 2005-06 and the percentage of target achieved in 2004-05?

Simplification of rules for exporters

166. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Committee under Mr. Ashok Jha to simplify procedures and rules for exporters;

(b) whether it is a fact that every exporter has to fill up over twenty forms to export anything;

(c) what are the reasons for such procedures;

(d) whether any interim action can be taken to reduce and simplify such forms and procedures; and

(e) the steps proposed in the matter?

Establishment of MPEDA offices world over

167. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish offices of MPEDA in different parts of the world to enhance the image of Indian marine products;

(b) how many such overseas offices the MPEDA have presently;

(c) what are the proposals to open new overseas offices by MPEDA;

(d) what is the view of Government on this issue; and

(e) what would be the details of annual cost of running an additional office of MPEDA in Europe?

Marine products exports

168. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what were the total marine products exports in the first nine months of the fiscal year 2004-05;

(b) the respective exports from Cochin and Visakhapatnam during this period;

(c) whether it is a fact that more exports are originating at Visakhapatnam port;

(d) if so, what additional steps MPEDA propose to take to increase exports from Visakhapatnam; and

(e) the details of plan to expand the storage capacity for exports by MPEDA?

Decline in India's export share

169. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's share in world exports which was 1.5 per cent at Independence, has as per latest records, come down to a mere 0.8 per cent;

(b) if so, whether Government has lately gone into the main causes of such a drastic decline;

(c) what are the main items of exports which have largely suffered; and

(d) whether any new policy or strategy has been worked out to restore India's due place in the world market?

Marketing assistance to exporters

170. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether exporters have made a demand to Government to increase marketing assistance for exporters in keeping with the norms laid down by the WTO;

(b) what specific demands have been made by exporters for enhanced marketing assistance;

(c) what is the reaction of Government to this demand;

(d) whether exporters have demanded that 0.5 per cent of the export earnings be given as marketing assistance to exporters as against the fixed total sum of Rs. 50 crores per year; and

(e) what are the reasons for Government not implementing this demand in the interest of increasing exports?

Steps to increase flower exports

171. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making any special efforts to increase export of flowers from various Southern States;

(b) whether any study has been done on the export potential of flowers;

(c) if so, the details of this study;

(d) what additional steps are proposed to be taken to give emphasis to the export of flowers;

(e) whether any market or exchange will be set up for floral exports in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Industrial incentive package to Gujarat

172. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to provide industrial incentive package particularly for Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Industrial Growth Centres in Tamil Nadu

173. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Industrial Growth Centres have been opened in the country alongwith the number of such centres opened in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the funds provided by Government to the Industrial Growth Centres in Tamil Nadu during last three years; and

(c) the number of such centres proposed to be opened in future in Tamil Nadu?

Annual expenditure of MPEDA

174. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the annual expenditure of MPEDA in 2003-04, 2004-05 and the projected expenditure in 2005-06; and

(b) what are the reasons for enhancing the budget?

Trade deficit

175. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade deficit during April-December, 2004 has widened;

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

(c) whether imports during the first three quarters of the financial year 2004-05 has also increased substantially;

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

(e) the steps taken to contain the imbalance in exports and imports?

Opening of auction centres of Tobacco Board

176. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is demand to open more auction centres of the Tobacco Board in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the steps proposed to ensure that all tobacco farmers get their tobacco easily to the auction centres;

(c) whether the Tobacco Board will give any transport subsidy to farmers for bringing their tobacco to the auction centres;

(d) the steps proposed to increase such facilities for the tobacco farmers; and

(e) the measures proposed in this regard?

Impact of Tsunami on marine exports

177. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of Tsunami on marine product exports from the country in 2004-05;

(b) whether the MPEDA has submitted an interim report on the expected fall in exports of marine products in this fiscal year;

(c) what steps are proposed to boost exports for the remaining part of this fiscal year; and

(d) the details of incentives MPEDA propose to give to exporters?

Views of EU Trade Commissioner on domestic market

†178. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Trade Commissioner of European Union during his recent visit to India has asked India to open its domestic market more;

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Sale of Karnataka tobacco without penalty on farmers

179. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received any proposal from Government of Karnataka requesting to accord approval for the sale of entire tobacco produced in Karnataka without imposing penalty on the farmers;

(b) whether Government would consider this proposal and approve it; and

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

Problems of coffee growers in Karnataka

180. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of long standing problem of coffee growers of Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the coffee growers met him and discussed the situation; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken by the Ministry to revive coffee production and the efforts made to get good price for coffee?

Effect of WTO norms

181. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry made any study to weigh pros and cons of implementation of WTO before joining it; if so, the details of its impact on Indian

commerce, companies and on the small producers of medicine;

(b) whether the Ministry has any data on sector-wise impact of the WTO, if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what effect it will have on small companies with fewer resources?

Export target for current fiscal

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

(a) the export target set by Government for the current financial year;

(b) the country's export to different countries up to February, 2005, country-wise and commodity-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the country's export is growing very fast;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to increase the country's exports in the world market?

Setting up of Retail Economic Zones

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

(a) whether Government propose to set up Retail Economic Zones on the lines of SEZs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the representatives of the retailers in the country are demanding for having a separate economic zone for retail goods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of foreign capital investment in retail sector

†184. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to approve the proposal regarding promoting foreign capital investment in retail market sector in the country;

(b) if so, the outlines of the said proposal;

(c) whether any assessment has been made of its ill effects on small traders in retail market after implementation of the said proposal; and

(d) if so, the number of small traders in the retail market in the country and how they are going to survive against the foreign capital?

Lifting of ban on onion export

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

(a) whether Government are considering to lift the ban for export of onions; keeping in view the record production and storage of onions particularly in Maharashtra by benefiting the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Manufacturing sector's share in GDP

†186. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the target is being laid down to double the existing share of manufacturing sector in GDP in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the share of manufacturing sector in GDP which has been fixed as per the target and by when it will be achieved?

Curbs on iron-ore exports

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to put curbs on iron-ore exports owing to its increasing domestic demand;

(b) if so, the details of action plan;

(c) the amount of iron-ore exported during 2003-04; and

(d) how far the proposed action plan would help to enhance our earnings through value added iron products?

Deployment of army units in terrorist, naxal and extremist affected States

†188. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the terrorism, Naxalism and extremism, any army unit has been deployed in any part of the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether there is any proposal of deploying army unit in Chhattisgarh in the context of the problem of the Naxal affected areas; and

(c) if so, by when the army unit is likely to be deployed?

Increase in maximum age limit for recruitment in Army

†189. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 792 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st July, 2004 and to state:

(a) the reasons for fixing the maximum age at 21 years; and

(b) whether Government are considering to increase the maximum age limit, if so, the details thereof?

Bomb explosions in Ordnance Factory, Amravati, Maharashtra

190. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 5000 bombs exploded in the ammunition depot in unit 9 of Ordnance Factory at Amravati in Maharashtra on the 31st of January, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the cause of the explosion;

(c) the number of persons killed/suffered injuries due to this explosion; and

(d) the measures taken to check recurrence of such incidents?

Steps to prevent air crashes.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that every month

one plane of Indian Air Force crashed during last four years;

(b) if so, the amount lost and the number of pilots killed in these plane crashes;

(c) whether these plane crashes occurred due to technical failure or due to human errors; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to prevent the air crashes?

Commissioning of Admiral Gorshkov

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

(a) whether it is certain now that the Russian built 45,000 tonne aircraft carrier 'Admiral Gorshkov' will be commissioned into the Indian Navy by end of 2007 and arrive in Mumbai in early 2008; and

(b) if so, the other details of the launch?

Shortage of officers in the Army

†193. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of thousands of officers in Army;

(b) if so, the number of posts lying vacant and since when the said shortage of officers existed and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the strength of young officers in commanding position in army is less in comparison to other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government have constituted any study/Enquiry Commission for improving the said conditions; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Gender neutrality in the Armed Forces

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

(a) whether it is a fact that although the decision to induct women into the army was taken in 1992, women officers are allowed entry only into the non-combatant wings of the forces;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the army, women officers serve only in corps of signals, ordnance or intelligence, while women Air Force Officers are drafted into logistics or ground duty and women pilots fly only transport planes such as Avro or An-32 or helicopters such as Chetak or Cheetah; and

(c) if yes, the steps Government proposes to take so that all specialities are open on gender-neutral standard?

Changes in defence purchase policy

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several units of Public Sector Undertaking specializing in products for the defence sector have surplus capacity and that these units lack orders from the Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government is considering to make changes in the defence purchase policy to ensure that when any equipment is imported it should be through the buy-and-make mode with transfer of technology instead of resorting to the buy-only mode; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Disposal of Vintage Planes

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Air Force (IAF) is ready to part with its vintage planes if there are any takers; and

(b) if so, the type of aircrafts that are put on offer?

Ajai Vikram Singh Committee Report

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

(a) the details of the Ajai Vikram Singh Committee Report and by when the Report is likely to be implemented; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Finance Minister has cleared the first phase of the report, which after implementation will lower the age profiles of the Army?

Security threat due to proliferation of WMD through sea

198. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) proliferation through the sea is one of the main security threat to the world, particularly to India, on account of its vast coastline; and

(b) if so, what measures are taken to address such threat potential and the allocations made for the purpose during the last three years?

Agreement between India and Pakistan for reduction of armed forces in Siachen

199. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has lately been reached between Indian and Pakistani authorities to reduce the armed forces in Siachen;

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

(c) the steps since taken in this regard?

Special recruitment scheme for people of border areas of J & K

200. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started any special recruitment scheme for the eligible people from the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir near Indo-Pak border in the defence forces;

(b) whether the scheme has since been finalized; and

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

MIG-21 crashes

201. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether another MIG-21 jet crashed on January 4, 2005; if so, where and in what circumstances;

(b) the total number of MIG jets that have crashed during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) whether there is some common cause for so many MIGs crashing during the

period; if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken to avoid such air crashes involving MIGs?

Defence personnel who lost their lives in Tsunami

202. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defence personnel including those of Coast Guard who lost their lives due to havoc caused by Tsunami waves in the Indian Ocean on 26th December, 2004, in Andaman Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry and Kerala, force-wise and area-wise;

(b) the number of defence personnel, force-wise and area-wise who have since been missing as a result of the Tsunami of December, 2004; and

(c) how the cases of salary, family pension and other dues payable in respect of those missing have been/are proposed to be decided?

Compensation paid to farmers of J & K border areas

203. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 232 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st July, 2004 and to state:

(a) what are the tehsil-wise details of the total amount paid as *ex-gratia* crop/rental compensation to the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir border areas whose land are under occupation for operational purposes; and

(b) the number of the farmers since provided or yet to be provided this compensation under this scheme?

Ragging incident at INS Shivaji

204. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the news reports about the Lonavla ragging at the Indian Navy's premier training institution INS Shivaji where a cadet was thrashed by senior cadets with hockey sticks;

(b) if so, the details of the case;

(c) whether any inquiry has been instituted in this case;

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry;

(e) the action taken against the senior cadets involved in this case;

(f) whether it is a fact that the naval authorities at INS Shivaji were aware of the whole case; and

(g) if yes, the reasons for not taking any action against the concerned cadets?

Defence air accidents

205. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Air accidents in Defence during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of accidents in which human error was found to be the reason; and

(c) the steps taken to provide training/ refresher course to the pilots to minimise human error factor?

Accident at Jawahar tunnel area in Srinagar

206. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to check the accident caused by snowfall in Jawahar tunnel area in Srinagar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the personnel who have lost their lives recently and the help being rendered by Government towards them?

Initiatives to check growing crime rate in Delhi

207. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiatives have been taken by Government to check the growing crime rate in the city of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Steps taken to locate missing persons

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

(a) the number of deaths due to the Tsunami, State and UT-wise till date;

(b) the number of missing persons due to Tsunami, State and UT-wise till date; and

(c) the steps taken to locate missing people?

Inspection of Tsunami hit areas of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

209. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central team have inspected the area in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which was worst affected by the Tsunami;

(b) whether Government have resurrected the situation by taking proper observation on the spot;

(c) if so, the details about the area visited and the improvement being made by Government towards Tsunami victims; and

(d) whether Government have checked the flee of population from Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

Dead bodies in Tsunami affected areas

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

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of bodies were lying scattered for days together in Tsunami affected areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government felt short of manpower to collect the bodies and identify them?

Criteria adopted to confer Bharat Ratna

211. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria adopted by Government of India to confer Bharat Ratna on any person;

(b) whether there is any committee which scrutinise the names of the people for Bharat Ratna;

(c) the terms of reference given to the committee; and

(d) the details of members of the committee which scrutinises the name for this honour?

Visit of Tsunami hit areas

212. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited all the 'Tsunami' affected regions and seen for himself the quality of relief exercises and status of the socio-economic rehabilitation of the survivors;

(b) if so, the details of information gathered in respective places;

(c) the total number, with age-wise break-up of, lives perished in each place;

(d) the number of people whose sources of livelihood suffered due to destruction/damage by the calamity;

(e) the steps, if any, taken for restoration of sources of livelihood to them; and

(f) the details of estimated investments to be made for that purpose?

Disaster Preparedness and Management Plan

213. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's decision to draw up a post 2001 Bhuj Earth-Quake Preparedness and Management Plan have been formulated and implemented;

(b) if so, the salient features of this plan;

(c) if not, by when this will be ready for guidance to meet such contingencies to minimise the disastrous effects to avoid loss of human lives and property; and

(d) whether any special step being taken to expedite drawing up this Disaster Preparedness and Management Plan?

Assistance to Tsunami victims

214. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reliable survey was

conducted to assess the extent of damage and loss of lives caused due to the onslaught of recent Tsunami; if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) what were the monetary claims demanded in this connection by the States affected from the Centre and how much was given alongwith the basis and objectivity of such sanction; and

(c) whether there will be further sanction for a long term permanent rehabilitation of those victims affected?

Staging fake surrenders to claim rehabilitation assistance

215. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government grants rehabilitation assistance to the terrorists who surrender before authorities to shun path of violence;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with number of such surrenders and the amount spent on their rehabilitation during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether there have been instances where certain individuals pretending to be terrorists, stage surrenders in order to claim rehabilitation assistance;

(d) if so, the details of such fake surrenders; and

(e) the action taken in such cases and measures proposed to be taken to verify claims before extending rehabilitation assistance?

People killed by naxalites during recent Assembly elections

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

(a) the number of persons killed, property damaged and booth looted by the naxalites in the recently concluded Assembly elections;

(b) whether Government propose to take some specific steps to eliminate the Naxalism in these States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Special task-force in naxal affected States

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a consensus has been reached to form a Joint Special Task Force in naxalite affected States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the said special task-force is likely to be set up?

Increase in crimes in Delhi

†218. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of incidents involving snatching, dacoit, theft, rape and stealing of vehicles has increased in the capital during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made for modernisation of Delhi Police?

Naxalism in Karnataka

219. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

naxalites are camping in the forests of Chikkamagalur district in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government are also aware that two extremists were shot dead in encounter near Sringeri recently;

(c) the assistance provided to Karnataka to tackle naxalite problem;

(d) what are the causes for the naxal violence in Karnataka;

(e) whether Karnataka Government was ready for talks with the naxalites to resolve their problem; and

(f) if so, the assistance proposed to be provided by Government to Karnataka for this purpose?

Terrorist operations from Bangladesh

220. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after Pakistan, Bangladesh is becoming a breeding centre of terrorist organizations operating in India particularly in North Eastern States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the threat caused by Bangladesh generated terrorist organizations towards the national security is taking more serious turn in the recent few years; and

(c) if so, the steps to counter the same and to stop such generation of anti-India terrorists in Bangladesh?

BADP funds for Jammu and Kashmir

221. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase the BADP funds for militancy affected State, Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) how much amount, year-wise and block-wise, has been used under this scheme from 2002 to 2005; and

(c) what criteria has been adopted to use the BADP funds?

Safety of tourists visiting J&K

†222. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in terrorist incidents and the number of tourists has increased in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether the visit of Kashmir is safe for the tourists; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for the safety of the tourists and the details thereof?

Infiltration from Bangladesh

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is spurt in infiltration from across Bangladesh Border;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government are facing problem in dealing with the menace;

(c) if so, whether Government have any plan to check the infiltration; and

(d) the expected number of infiltration in the country?

Traffic management in metro cities

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

(a) whether it is a fact that despite a

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

number of fly-overs constructed in metro cities, the traffic management has not improved so far; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to improve traffic management in these metros?

Refusal of Padma Awards

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the recipients of Padma Awards have refused to accept the awards;

(b) if so, the details of persons conferred Padma Awards and refused to accept the same; and

(c) what are the reasons for refusing the awards?

Security of VIPs by CISF

†226. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to withdraw NSG and para-military forces from the security of VIPs and handover the same to Central Industrial Security Force;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the decision will come into force?

Exploitation of girls

†227. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of girls of poor families are lured and being sold in the gulf countries;

(b) the details thereof and the States where such incidents are on the rise; and

(c) the details of measures Government have taken to check such immoral sex exploitations of under-age poor and innocent girls and the extent of success Government have achieved in this regard?

Resettlement of people in refugee camps in Jammu

†228. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of people have been taking shelter in the refugee camps in Jammu for the sake of their security in spite of having their own houses;

(b) the number of such persons and since when they are living in these camps; and

(c) the details of scheme formulated by Government to resettle these homeless people in their own houses with full security?

Proposals from the naxal affected States

†229. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal had been asked for by Government in respect of the naxal affected areas in various States;

(b) whether the proposal from the State of Chhattisgarh has been submitted to Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when Government are likely to take decision thereon?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Anomaly in rebate on House Taxes by MCD

230. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) have allowed fifteen per cent rebate on House Tax to the commercial properties after the dead line of 30th September, 2004;

(b) if so, what will happen to those owners of commercial properties who have already deposited their House Tax with five per cent rebate, originally fixed by the MCD; and

(c) whether the MCD will refund the excess amount already paid by the property owners and if not, the reasons therefor?

Handling of cases under IT Act by D.P.

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Police still remains unequipped to handle cases under the IT Act; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

Incidents of theft from residence of MPs and bureaucrats

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

(a) whether it is a fact that large cases of burglaries and car theft involving

properties of MPs and senior bureaucrats in Delhi have been reported during last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many cases have been solved and culprits brought to book; and

(d) the steps being taken to protect properties of MPs and senior bureaucrats without sacrificing the protection of common man?

Foreign Nationals in Assam

233. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any exercise has been carried out in the North-East India, particularly in Assam, for ascertaining the number of Bengali speaking Muslims infiltrated into Indian territory from Bangladesh and unauthorisedly settled here;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) if not, the reason for not conducting such an exercise; and

(d) the number of foreign Nationals detected in Assam since the inception of the Illegal Migrants DT Act and how many have been deported so far?

Establishment of naxalite base in Kerala

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that naxalites are trying to establish their regime from Nepal to Kerala and they have named their mission as 'CRG';

(b) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan's Intelligence Agency I.S.I. is helping them in the said mission; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government to get rid of this situation completely?

Threat to the demography of Assam due to infiltration

235. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that infiltrations from Bangladesh is posing a serious threat to the demography of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken for the safety and security of the region?

Spurt in terrorist related violence in N.E.

236. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 1 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st December, 2004 and to state:

(a) whether there was a spurt of terrorist related violence in North-East during September-October last year;

(b) if so, the number of civilians and those of army and para-military forces, separately, who lost their lives in violence so far since 1st September, 2004, month-wise, State-wise and force-wise and number of terrorists who were killed and apprehended by forces during the period; and

(c) whether any compensation was paid by the Central/State Governments in respect of civilians who lost their lives in terrorists related violence during the period, if so, the details thereof?

Accidents caused by blue-line buses in Delhi

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

(a) whether a woman was run over by a speeding blue-line bus at Moti Nagar on 25th January, 2005 and another blue-line bus killed a motorcyclist on 24th January, 2005 in Rohini area;

(b) if so, the action taken against crew and owners of buses;

(c) the number of blue-line and other buses ferrying passengers in Delhi, whether on DTC routes or otherwise which have been involved in serious accidents causing casualties and serious injuries to accident victims so far during 2005 and during 2004; and

(d) the action taken against crew involved, and owners of buses in each case?

Findings of Nanavati Commission

238. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI NAND KISHORE
YADAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Justice G.T. Nanavati, who probed the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, has submitted his report to Home Minister, in February, 2005;

(b) if so, what are the main findings/recommendations of the Commission;

(c) whether Government have till date examined the contents/findings of Nanavati report;

(d) if so, what action Government are contemplating to take against those persons who were involved in exciting, killing and looting properties of innocent

people in Delhi and elsewhere; and

(e) how much compensation till date Government have paid and expenditure incurred for rehabilitation of families of riot-victims?

Deletion of the word "Sindh" from the National Anthem

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

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to delete the word "Sindh" from the National Anthem "*Jana Gana Mana*";

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are aware that this will hurt the sentiments of Sindhis who are part and parcel of India?

Birth and death registration records

240. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several States have not been able to send birth and death registration records to the Centre for the last several years;

(b) the details of such States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the States are facing stationery problem; and

(e) the steps taken to provide the requisite stationery?

Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute

241. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any

proposal to solve the Maharashtra-Karnataka border dispute;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Initiatives to contain naxalism

242. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some fresh initiatives have been taken to meet the challenge posted to national security by Naxalites in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Centre are planning to provide special assistance to States for formation of State-level joint task forces for effective policing required to co-ordinate operations on both sides of the borders of States to curb the spread of Naxalism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the States likely to be covered by the joint task force(s) plan?

Assistance to deserted wives of NRIs

243. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the deserted wives of Non-Resident Indians and their plight in India;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to improve their living conditions; and

(c) what the legal assistance, Government is giving to the victims and the steps taken to reunite them with their NRI husbands?

Naga problem

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

(a) whether the NSCN (I-M) leaders have taken a firm stand with regard to the integration of all Naga-inhabited areas in Manipur, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya;

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

(c) whether Government have ascertained the views of States of the North Eastern Region affected by the demand of the NSCN (I-M) leaders and if so, their reaction thereto; and

(d) what strategy Government are thinking of to resolve the five-decade old Naga problem?

Flesh trade in metro cities

245. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that flesh trade in metro cities and more particularly in Delhi has assumed a dangerous proportion;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested by the police authorities during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Central Government are aware that flesh trade is rampant in the garb of friendship clubs; and

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

Pathetic condition at immigration counters at IGI airport

246. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of pathetic conditions at immigration counters at the International Airport in Delhi where passengers have to wait for more than one hour to get immigration and security clearance and for boarding the aircraft;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether any action plan have been drawn to increase the staff and counters at immigration counters and if not, the reasons therefor?

Entering of Maoists in India from Nepal

247. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), responsible for guarding Indo-Nepal border have confirmed about certain Maoists crossing into India following the royal coup in Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Maoists are reported to be heading for safer sanctuaries in Uttaranchal, Bihar and Jharkhand;

(d) whether besides Maoists, certain political activists are also reported to have crossed into India or have sought refuge in India;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether this can lead to a serious internal security situation in India; and

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

Losses suffered due to Tsunami disaster

248. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
DR. M.A.M. RAMA-SWAMY:
SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total loss suffered by the country due to Tsunami disaster, State-wise;
- (b) the action taken by the Central Government to give relief and rehabilitation to Tsunami victims as of date;
- (c) whether it is a fact that in many States, there does not exist any disaster management plan;
- (d) if so, the details of such States;
- (e) whether the Central Government have been requesting the State Governments to put in place a proper disaster management plan; and
- (f) if so, the action taken by the Central Government to impress upon the States the need for an exhaustive disaster management plan?

Setting up of Disaster Management Authority

249. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI MURLI DEORA:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to set up any permanent disaster

management authority for dealing with a major disaster of the magnitude of Tsunami and if so, the details thereof; and

- (b) whether there is any proposal to give the proposed authority statutory powers and if so, by when legislation to this effect is likely to be brought forward in Parliament?

Rape cases in Delhi

†250. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that incidents of rape of women are increasing constantly in National Capital Delhi for last many years;
- (b) if so, the details of such incidents during last three years; year-wise;
- (c) the details of action taken in each case; and
- (d) the outcome of the action taken and the effective steps being taken to prevent such incidents in future?

Atrocities against women

251. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether atrocities against women have increased in National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT) and other metropolitan cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what action plan has been formulated by Government to check atrocities against women?

Support of renewable energy programme by foreign institutions

252. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of foreign institutions

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

supporting the renewable energy programme in the country;

(b) the details of the kind of assistance being given to encourage non-conventional energy sources in the country;

(c) the States and Union Territories which have potential for non-conventional energy sources; and

(d) the total number of non-conventional energy projects functioning in the country at present, State-wise?

Power plants of NES

†253. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power plants based on conventional and non-conventional energy sources respectively operating in the country at present;

(b) the number of applications received during 2004-2005 for starting the power plants of non-conventional energy sources; and the number out of them sanctioned; and

(c) the State-wise details of the non-conventional energy sources which are operational at present alongwith the potential sources for the same?

Incurring losses by IREDA

254. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) is incurring huge losses; and

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

Loan sanctioned to IREDA

255. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loans sanctioned and repayment made by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency for the last five years; and

(b) the details of the action taken against defaulters and penalties imposed on them?

Generation of resources by State-owned power sector companies

256. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State-owned companies in power sector are generating resources through interim dividends;

(b) if so, what is the interim dividend paid during this fiscal year by various power sector PSUs to the Government;

(c) whether the dividend paid to the Government by NTPC during the last financial year is in adequate as compared to total income of the company; and

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

Increasing the power generation capacity

†257. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the capacity of the Power Generation Centres is decreasing in the country, at present;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the measures being taken by Government to increase the Power Generation Capacity of these Centres?

Financial assistance to ongoing projects of NTPC

258. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is not giving proper financial assistance to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for ongoing projects in the country and abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the expansion programme of NTPC during the next fiscal year?

Power purchasing agreement between Government of Kerala and NTPC

259. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is/was an agreement with the Government of Kerala regarding the purchase of power from National Thermal Power Corporation located at Kayamkulam;

(b) if so, the details including the period of agreement and the cost to be paid to NTPC per unit power and the cost to be paid for the same unit of hydroelectric power purchased by the Government of Kerala from other sources;

(c) whether steps will be taken to provide power to Kerala with a cost comparable to that of hydroelectric power;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Investment for increasing hydro power production

†260. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to pay special attention for investment in private sector to increase hydro power production in order to achieve better position in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also taking action to bring down expenditure in production of power; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Use of feedstock for power generation by NTPC

261. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Thermal Power Corporation is considering proposals to use feedstock other than coal to generate power in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of proposals of NTPC;

(c) what are the reasons for switching from coal to feedstock by NTPC; and

(d) the details of capacity propose to be added by NTPC through such power plants?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Shortage of power in Gujarat

262. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of power in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the demand?

Setting up new power projects in Gujarat

263. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned any new power projects for the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the sanction of new power projects is expected?

Power projects funded out of the CPPFS in UP

264. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing projects funded out of the Central Power Project Finance Scheme in the State of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of project-wise estimated cost, amount released and spent so far?

Renovation/modernisation of Power Plants

265. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to renovate/modernise the existing power plants/stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of power projects/plants proposed to be modernised during the Tenth Plan, State-wise; and

(c) the extent to which power generation capacity of each project/plant is likely to be increased after modernisation along with the expenditure involved?

Supply of power to States from the Central Pool

266. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes of Government formulated for supply of power to States from the Central Pool;

(b) the details of quantum of power supplied from this pool to the States during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that power was not supplied to the States in accordance with their demand; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

National Electricity Policy

267. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring National Electricity Policy for accelerated and efficient development of the sector;

(b) if so, the details of the policy;

(c) whether in the policy, Government propose to provide subsidised power to Below Poverty Line families and capital subsidies would be provided to States for rural electrification with special reference to dalit basti, tribal areas and weaker sections;

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

(e) by when the policy is to come into force and the time-frame fixed for providing power to every house in the country?

Potential of Hydro-electricity in NE

268. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that North-East region has a potential to generate 34,000 MW of hydroelectricity, but so far only 668 MW has been tapped;

(b) if so, whether Government has any plans to set up hydroelectric plants in the NE to generate the power which could be connected to the national grid for tiding over the shortage in other parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Targets for setting up power projects

†269. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed by Government for setting up of hydro-electric, thermal power and gas based projects etc. in various States of the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of proposals related to power projects pending with Government as on date, which are to be implemented in various States of the country; and

(c) the measures being taken to accord sanction to the pending projects and to complete these projects in time?

Mejia TPS of D.V.C.

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

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mejia Thermal Power Station of Damodar Valley Corporation produces power;

(b) if so, the rate of Plant Load Factor of production of the project during 2004;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost of power produced by this project is assessed @ Rs. 1.52 paise per unit during the said period; and

(d) if not, the facts in this regard and whether it is also a fact this production cost under National Thermal Power Corporation is at lower side?

Demand and supply of power

271. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment regarding increase in the demand and supply of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of total quantum of power likely to be generated through various resources during the next five years?

Connecting all villages with roads

†272. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of villages in the country which are still devoid of inter-connecting roads;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to connect these villages with roads;

(c) the number of villages targeted to be connected with the roads every year; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) by when all the villages are likely to be connected with roads?

Releasing watershed development projects

273. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra have requested to release 1000 watershed development projects under DPAP and IWDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many projects are under consideration of Government and by when they will be sanctioned?

Raising the number of days for employment under NREGS

274. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme provides employment for hundred days in a year per person;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Agriculture Experts have asked Government to raise the number of days for employment under the scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government on the suggestions of Agriculture Experts on NREGS?

Appraisal of employment generation programmes in the rural areas

275. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether appraisal of the status of implementation of various employment generation programmes in the rural areas in the State of Jharkhand envisaged in the Tenth Five Year Plan, has been carried out;

(b) if so, the details and the status, scheme-wise including number of families brought above the poverty line; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Revival of dormant National Fund for Rural Development

276. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Fund for Rural Development was started in 1995-96 which has since become dormant;

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

(c) the total amount collected in this fund;

(d) whether with a view to get more revenues for the vast rural undeveloped sector, the Government have revived the dormant National Fund for Rural Development (NFRD); and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Assistance to educated unemployed youth under SGSY and SGRY

277. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of financial assistance granted to the educated unemployed youths in the various districts of the country under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) during the last three years, district-wise, year-wise?

Revision of criteria for Rural Development Fund under E.A.S.

278. SHRI NABAM REBIA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any demand from some States of the NER for revision of criteria for allocation of Rural Development Funds under Employment Assurance Schemes; and

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

Employment opportunities for SCs/ STs and weaker sections

279. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employment opportunities created for the benefits of SCs/STs and weaker sections of the society under different Rozgar schemes and programmes in the different parts of the country; and

(b) the number of SCs/STs and weaker sections of society families benefited from these schemes during the last three years?

Implementation of poverty alleviation programme

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

(a) the details of poverty alleviation programmes being implemented in rural areas of the country particularly in the State of Assam during the last three years;

(b) the details of financial allocations made during this period; and

(c) the details of new schemes formulated for the same in this respect?

Employment under RES

†281. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for providing jobs during this year (April 2004-March 2005) under the Rural Employment Scheme;

(b) the number of jobs provided till date as per the above target; and

(c) the comparative increase in the number thereof to that of the last year?

Proposal for extension of watershed programme

282. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to give extension for watershed programme of 5th batch allotted under Centrally Sponsored Scheme DPAP upto 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Review of schemes for rural people

283. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the various Schemes like IRDP, RLED, JRY for rural people;

(b) whether the above schemes are not easily accessible to the needy people; and

(c) if so, the details about the above schemes being implemented in Maharashtra year-wise and district-wise?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Amendments in guidelines for Hariyali under DPAP and IWDP

284. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the State Governments have asked for amendments in guidelines for Hariyali under DPAP and IWDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government propose to amend the guidelines?

Assessment of Rural Development Schemes

285. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any assessment of the impact of the various Rural Development Schemes during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these schemes have fulfilled the desired objectives;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) which are the schemes that are in operation in Andhra Pradesh?

Promotion of self-employment in rural areas

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

(a) whether Government has formulated any programmes to provide self-employment in the rural areas for the past five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Schemes for rural development

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

(a) the details of the schemes under the Ministry;

(b) the steps taken by Government for implementing such schemes for the past five years; and

(c) the details of the allocations made and spent during the same period?

Problem of safe potable water

†288. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing problem of safe potable water in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to resolve the said problem?

Affect of Multi Fibre Agreement under WTO regime

289. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Multi Fibre Agreement under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime, had come to an end on January 1, 2005; and

(b) if so, how India, China and others concerned stand to gain or lose thereby?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Ban imposed by USA

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

(a) whether USA has imposed a ban on import of suit, under garments and a number of other garments from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact on Export of Indian garments as a result thereof ?

Investments in textile sector

291. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact, that the textile sector needs a huge capital investment of Rs. 27,000 crores, within the next 2 years, to compete with other countries, with the phasing out of the quota regime this year; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to meet the target?

Security schemes for handloom and powerloom workers

†292. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to implement any special security schemes for the workers in handloom and powerloom sector;

(b) if so, by when these schemes will come into force; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in cotton production

293. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there has been increase in production of cotton but there is no corresponding demand;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to tackle the above situation; and

(c) whether Government have received any representation from States for export of cotton from India?

Textiles mills in North-Eastern Region

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

(a) the details of textiles mills proposed to be set up in the States of North-Eastern Region during the current year; and

(b) the details of financial allocation made by Government in this regard?

Financial support for handloom sector

295. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that handloom sector is in a declining stage and most of the weavers families are living below poverty line;

(b) what type of financial support Government are going to introduce for them;

(c) the details of the schemes; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Strengthening domestic textile industry

296. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of textiles that India is expected to export during 2005-06 in the light of the textile sector entering into the GATT discipline of WTO;

(b) whether it is a fact that domestic industry is exposed to international competition from 1st January, 2005; and

(c) if so, what measures the Government are taking to strengthen the domestic textile industry, including cotton industry?

Plan to make jute and jute products more competitive

297. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plan to improve the productivity of jute and jute products at every stage; and

(b) if not, how does Government plan to make jute and jute products more competitive in comparison to other products available?

India as global textile hub

298. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post quota regime help India to become a global textile hub;

(b) if so, how this dream of India will become a reality;

NEW DELHI;
The 24th February, 2005
Phalgun 5, 1926 (Saka)

(c) whether any steps Government have taken to make this dream a reality; and

(d) what is the investment made by the Indian majors in the textile sector over the last five years; year-wise?

Promotion of textiles industry

299. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has issued direction to the Textile Ministry for preparing a strategy outlining the measures needed to attract investment, generation of employment and boosting of exports etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have worked out certain action plan to prepare the sector for post-quota regime; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Extension of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

300. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been extended by three years;

(b) if so, the reasons leading to this extension;

(c) what is the share of fund given to the Handloom Sector; and

(d) the new proposals, if any, for promoting Handloom Sector?

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

Commerce and Industry	: 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187,
Defence	: 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206,
Home Affairs	: 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251,
Non-Conventional Energy Sources	: 252, 253, 254, 255,
Power	: 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271,
Rural Development	: 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288,
Textiles	: 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300.