

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on

Thursday, the May 2, 2002/Vaisakha 12, 1924 (Saka)

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; External Affairs; Labour; Parliamentary Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—155

Export Price for coir

3791. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to phase out Minimum Export Price (MEP) for coir;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether small sector and workers have opposed gradual withdrawal of MEP; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure that withdrawal of Minimum Export Price does not have an adverse impact on coir export?

(c) if not, the reasons for not assessing the same and by when it is likely to be assessed; and

(d) the percentage of recovery of loans under this scheme?

Action plan to promote agro and rural industries

† 3793. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any concrete measures to promote agro and rural industries keeping in view India being an agriculture dominated country;

(b) if so, the action plan worked out by Government to promote such industries during the year 2002-2003; and

(c) whether Government propose to observe agriculture based and rural industries as an alternative to get rid of unemployment prevailing in the country?

Assessment of PMRY

† 3792. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made with regards to Pradhanmantri Rozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Improvement of Khadi and Village Industries Commission

3794. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to diversify activities of Khadi and Village Industries Commission to improve its financial health; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Reactor for RAPP

3795. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Rajasthan has lately requested the Central Government for approving two more reactors of 220 MW units each at RAPP (RAPP-5&6) to improve power supply position in the Northern Region;

(b) if so, the details of the projected units, including the cost thereof; and

(c) the reasons justifying the same and Government's decision thereon?

Corruption in DAE

3796. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), there is no finance and technology audit by any central agency in the name of National Nuclear Security and for Classified Records, rampant misappropriation of funds, drainage of National wealth, Mis-adventure on Technology and Nuclear blackmailing are going on at the cost of National Safety and Security as extensively reported in the print media;

(b) whether any action has already been taken to clean up the DAE's rot;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Nuclear reactors to tide over power crisis

3797. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of reports in the press that 8 Nuke reactors would be ready by 2008;

(b) if so, the quantum of power to be generated and the beneficiary States; and

(c) the other such projects that are proposed to be taken up in the future to tide over power crisis in the country?

Allotment of STD/ISD/PCOs in Punjab

†3798. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending with Government for allotment of STD/ISD/PCOs at different places/towns in Punjab and since when such applications are pending;

(b) the details of STD/ISD/PCOs cleared and allotted in the State during the last three years, district-wise; and

(c) the norms for opening of STD/ISD/PCO in the State?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Reduction in rates of long distance
STD calls**

3799. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposals to further reduce rates of long-distance STD calls beyond 500 kms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Working of mobile phone companies

†3800. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mobile Phone Companies of the country are working with the 400 mobile phone companies of 171 countries under the Global System for Mobile Communication;

(b) if so, whether these companies are contravening provisions of the Copyright Act by making use of phone chesis number system under the provisions of the Act without permission; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

**Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras in
Andhra Pradesh**

3801. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats presently availing the facility of Panchayat

Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether any target for setting up of new PSSKs has been fixed for the State for 2001-2002; and

(c) if so, the status of the target, so far?

**News-item Captioned as "Soochana
Kranti Ka Kamaal"**

†3802. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "Rashtriya Sahara", dated the 12th February, 2002 under the caption "Soochana Kranti Ka Kamaal—Internet par lagi deh ki haat"; and

(b) the concrete steps being contemplated by Government to check such incidents of vulgarity on Internet?

Check on wasteful expenditure

†3803. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken any measures to check wasteful expenditure and has identified such areas in its various Departments where wasteful expenditure is maximum;

(b) if so, the details of the areas and the wasteful expenditure incurred annually by them during the last three years; and

(c) the corrective measures taken so far to lessen/stop such wasteful expenditure?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

O.F.C. network in the country

3804. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the plan for adding more Optic Fiber Cable network in the telecom sector during the year 2002-2003; and

(b) the number of direct exchange lines to be added during the year?

Pending cases of compassionate appointments

3805. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI ANIL SHARMA:

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

(a) whether a number of cases of compassionate appointments are pending with the P&T Department for more than three years adding to miseries of the dependents of the deceased Government employees;

(b) if so, the details of the cases pending for more than one year;

(c) the number of vacancies under group 'C' category filled during the last three years and how many candidates were offered compassionate appointments against them; and

(d) by when the backlog of compassionate appointments of last three years would be cleared?

Computer software exports

3806. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

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

(a) whether India's electronics and computer software exports have increased during the current year;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase as compared to export in the previous year; and

(c) what steps have been taken to further augment the export of these items during the coming years?

Software Technology Parks in the country

†3807. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have established the Software Technology Parks of India in 1991 to promote the export of software;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that STPI has been establishing software Parks at different places with the help of the State Government;

(c) if so, the States where such parks have been established; and

(d) whether Government have any scheme to establish such parks in Himachal Pradesh also, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

O.C.B. telephone exchanges in Hamirpur

†3808. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to setup OCB Telephone Exchanges based on latest technique of communications in the District of Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Ooni of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

Telephone arrears

3809. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether is it a fact that huge arrears of telephone bills are pending from several subscribers including the Central and State Governments;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the arrears pending as on the 31st December, 2001;

(c) what steps are being taken to liquidate the arrears;

(d) whether Government are contemplating to introduce pre-paid telephone bills; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Introduction of WLL facility

3810. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided

to introduce Wireless Local Loop (WLL) technology for providing telephone connections in rural and semi-urban areas;

(b) whether it is also a fact that industrial lobby in basic cellular services is opposing WLL technology; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Licenses for long distance service

3811. SHRI K.M.KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the companies which have been issued licenses for providing long distance service;

(b) the number of companies which have been registered as infrastructure provider-I and II;

(c) whether PSU like MTNL and BSNL can withstand the competition due to sudden opening of national long distance service to Private Parties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

FDI in telecom sector

3812. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country is a favoured destination for Foreign Direct Investment in telecom sector;

(b) whether as a result thereof Sanchar Dhabas would be opened across the rural areas;

(c) if so, the number of villages likely to be benefited by the scheme during the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) by when all the villages throughout the country are likely to be covered?

Difference of rates between ISD and internet telephony

3813. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a wide difference of rates between the ISD and internet telephony at present;

(b) if so, whether Government would endeavour to strike a correlation between the two; and

(c) whether internet telephony is allowed without any additional licence fee or entry fee to the internet service providers and whether their original licences allow them voice applications?

Telephone facility in villages of Mainpuri

† 3814. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the villages which were planned to provide telephone facility during the last five years along with the villages which have been provided with the facility and villages which are yet to be provided the same, year-wise and village-wise;

(b) by when the rest of the villages would be provided telephone facility; and

(c) what action Government would take against the persons found guilty for negligence and if not, the reasons therefor?

TRAI's recommendations about imposition of USO levy

3815. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the TRAI has come out with its final recommendations about imposition of USO levy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these recommendations have been implemented by Government and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the tentative time schedule for their implementation?

Karnatakas' Treasury Computerisation Project

3816. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has initiated treasury computerisation project covering sub-treasuries by connecting them to the Central Communications System through VSATS, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the State Government has requested the Central Government to fund the networking component of the above project as a pilot project; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in regard thereto?

KU band and DTH

3817. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the difference between the KU band and the DTH;

(b) whether any State in the country is using KU band;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to bring more use of KU band in India?

Shortage of revenue and postal stamps

3818. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of revenue stamps and other postal stamps in the country, especially in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to meet the shortage;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

OFC in Tamil Nadu

3819. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the length of Optical Fibre Cable laid in Tamil Nadu, so far;

(b) whether any more Optical Fibre Cable is likely to be laid in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Department of Posts' agreement with La Poste of France

3820. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts has entered into an agreement with La Poste of France and Emirates Posts to develop India as a hub for delivery of parcels in the sub-continent;

(b) if so, the details of such proposal/alliance/agreement;

(c) how the Government are using IT into its operations to increase the productivity and lower the costs;

(d) whether there is any proposal before Government for corporatising postal services in the country ;and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Reduction in staff strength of MTNL

3821. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reduce the staff strength of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, shortly;

(b) the present staff strength of MTNL;

(c) the percentage of staff to be reduced under the proposed reduction; and

(d) by when this is likely to be done?

**Foreign capital investment in
Communication and Infor-
mation Technology
Industry**

†3822. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-
CATIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign capital
has been invested in the country's
Communications and Information
Technology Industries;

(b) if so, the foreign capital invested
separately in said industries by the end of
March 2002; and

(c) the capital invested in establishing
telephone systems and computer education
system in the rural areas of the country out
of the said foreign capital?

I.T. industrial units in USA

†3823. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-
CATIONS AND INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of
industrial units under Indian Information
Technology Industry are functioning
in USA;

(b) if so, the number of such industrial
units functioning there during the financial
year 2001-2002;

(c) whether it is also a fact that twenty
per cent of the salary of their employees is
paid there as social security tax by these
units; and

(d) if so, the average amount deposited
annually in the form of tax there?

**Telephone exchanges connected with
OFC in Tehri, Uttaranchal**

†3824. SHRI MANOHAR KANT
DHYANI: Will the Minister of
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFOR-
MATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to
state:

(a) the number of exchanges in Tehri
provided with reliable media at the end of
year 2001-2002;

(b) the status of thirteen microwave
system exchanges and whether these are
working satisfactorily and if not the
measures being taken to provide them with
reliable media; and

(c) the status of four satellite-based and
ten overhead media and the measures being
taken to keep the services being provided
by them satisfactorily?

**Software programme for visually
handicapped**

3825. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the
Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be
pleased to state:

(a) whether any software programme has
been developed for the visually impaired
handicapped persons in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features
thereof;

(c) the centres where such programmes
are being run for the blind; and

(d) the proposed additional centres to be
opened during the next five years in different
parts of the country to bring hope for the
blind?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Constitution of TACs

3826. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to re-constitute District/State level Telephone Advisory Committees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Chhattisgarh and M.P.

†3827. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

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

(c) the amount allocated for this purpose for the year 2002-2003?

Hiring of private buildings for post offices

3828. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Post Offices in Delhi are housed in private buildings;

(b) if so, the details of the criteria/procedure for hiring such buildings;

(c) whether Government propose to shift post office-110073 to a new building;

(d) if so, what steps have been taken, so far in this regard; and

(e) by when it is likely to be shifted to a new building?

Allotment of ISD/STD/PCOs/Fax

3829. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the applications received for allotment of ISD/STD/PCOs/Fax etc. in Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and the North-Eastern Region States;

(b) the number of applications sanctioned for the same in these States; and

(c) the number of ISD/STD/PCOs/Fax etc. that were proposed to be released in these States during the year 2001-2002?

Telephone facility in the villages of Mainpuri

†3830. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone facility has been provided in all the villages of Mainpuri district during the last two years;

(b) the number of villages where the work relating to laying of telephone lines and providing telephone connections was planned to be completed during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) whether the telephone connections have been provided as per the plan; if so, the details of the villages provided with telephone connections alongwith the villages where the connections are yet to be provided?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Poor services of 197 and 198 in
Mainpuri**

†3831. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that services with regard to 197 and 198 in Mainpuri Telephone Exchange are in a very bad situation due to non-availability of operators on the line and common people are facing problems as a result thereof;

(b) what measures have been taken/are being taken for improving the situation in this regard;

(c) if not, the details of the resources used by the region for assessment of situation; and

(d) the action taken by the official posted at Mainpuri and if not, what action Government are taking against the highest officer (TDM) there?

**Complaint against the officials of
Mainpuri Exchange**

†3832. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the miscellaneous complaints including complaints of favouritism and bribery and other serious complaints registered/received during the years 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 against the officials and the staff under the Mainpuri Telephone Exchange, and other telephone exchanges attached to it;

(b) the action taken/being taken on the complaints of corruption and favouritism;

(c) the time taken to rectify the faults;

(d) whether there was any delay in rectifying the fault in some of the cases; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken/being taken to prevent the recurrence?

**Increase in rentals for commercial
subscribers**

3833. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has increased monthly rentals of commercial subscribers upto 33 per cent from April 1, 2002;

(b) if so, the justification therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that a large number of residential telephones are being used as commercial one, resulting loss to the exchequer in the capital; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take against such subscribers who are using their telephones for commercial purposes?

**Mobile phone facility in Kashmir and
NER**

3834. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3864 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th August, 2001 and state the reasons behind not allowing private companies and BSNL in Kashmir and NER to operate mobile telephone when the militants are freely using all sorts of advanced communications network and thereby depriving only the common people to use

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

this mobile telephony required for their own safety?

Regularisation of Data Entry Operators in DoT

3835. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication and MTNL have been separated;

(b) whether the Data Entry Operators working on contract basis in the Department of Telecommunication since February, 1999 have not been regularised;

(c) whether Government would regularise their services; and

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

Tensile strength of aerogrammes

3836. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aerogrammes in India are made of recycled paper and therefore they do not have proper tensile strength;

(b) whether it has been brought to Government's notice that they are not withstanding machine handling in foreign countries; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to improve their quality?

Scheme to carry forward unused local calls

3837. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a scheme to carry forward monthly unused local calls to help retired employees and poor customers;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Post offices in Punjab

3838. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices opened till date in rural and border areas of Punjab during the last three years;

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be opened in Punjab under the future schemes having e-mail internet and computer facilities;

(c) whether Government propose to provide the above facilities in all important post offices in rural areas within a fixed time-frame; and

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

MoU between India and New Zealand

3839. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and New Zealand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Information Technology for Research and Development, skills exchange and business-to-business co-operation in the Hi-tech sector;

(b) if so, whether New Zealand has urged India to develop Information Technology in that country;

(c) whether New Zealand considers India as IT power house; and

(d) if so, to what extent India has agreed to provide all co-operation in software development and training in New Zealand?

Starvation deaths

† 3840. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country which are adversely affected from starvation and the number of starvation deaths, State-wise;

(b) whether their number is increasing;

(c) whether Government have made any survey in this regard during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Consumer awareness in Andhra Pradesh

3841. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts the Central Government and Government of Andhra Pradesh have

made to make the people of the State aware of their consumer rights;

(b) whether voluntary consumer organisations are also being involved in the State to spread consumer awareness; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Programmes for BPL facilities

3842. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have started a number of food supply programmes for BPL families with the aim of making India hunger free;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quotas allocated under each programme to each State and their price per quintal;

(d) whether the quota is being utilized fully; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to make the States avail the full quota?

Reformation of cooperative sugar mills of U.P. by NCDC

† 3843. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals regarding reformation of the cooperative sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh pending with the National Cooperative Development Corporation;

(b) the district-wise details of the said proposals and by when a decision regarding the same would be taken; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps being taken by Government for reformation of sugar mills of the State?

Import of edible oil

† 3844. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given an assurance to the "vegetable oil manufacturers" that they would consider the matter of the cheap imports of vegetable oil in bulk;

(b) if so, whether there is a likelihood of the Indian vegetable oil industry reaching on the verge of closure due to such imports; and

(c) whether Government are taking any measure to prepare the vegetable oil industry which is now reeling under the pressure of the cheap imports to meet the challenges of the World Trade Agreement, if so, the details thereof?

Decentralisation of procurement of foodgrains

3845. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decentralised procurement of foodgrains and encouraged greater role by private traders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what has been response of the State Governments; and

(d) how Government propose to safeguard interests of the small and marginal farmers?

Export of foodgrains

3846. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to increase foodgrains export from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding the quantity and price of foodgrains exported to different countries during the last two years?

Offtake of foodgrains

3847. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to strengthen the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding offtake of foodgrains from the Food Corporation of India from 1998-99 onwards; and

(d) what are the steps taken by Government to enhance the offtake?

PDS in Kerala

3848. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has submitted any fresh proposals to strengthen the existing Public Distribution System in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details regarding the PDS offtake in Kerala since 1999-2000 onwards; and

(d) whether Government plan any specific PDS programmes for those States facing shortage of foodgrains production?

Capacity of warehouses

3849. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FCI warehouses in the country, State-wise;

(b) the original capacity of these warehouses alongwith the details of the surplus stock of foodgrains piled up in these warehouses;

(c) whether Government have distributed any quantity of foodgrains to calamitous situations, like drought and flood, in the country or other countries during the last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Corruption in FCI

3850. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether corruption is high in FCI as reported in the Economic Times dated the 15th January, 2002;

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

(c) the details of the corruption cases come to Government's notice during the last two years; and

(d) the action taken by Government in each case?

Barter-deal to dispose off wheat stocks

3851. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering barter-deal with many countries to dispose off its huge wheat at stocks;

(b) whether India has identified commodities of import under the barter-deal as bitumen from Iran, palm oil from Malaysia and Indonesia and items of Indian interest with Sudan and Morocco;

(c) whether India has invited a delegation from Iran to inspect the country's wheat stocks and allay Iran's fears about the fungus or foreign matter in Indian wheat; and

(d) what other options are being considered to dispose off huge stocks of foodgrains?

Private sector's participation in storage and transportation of foodgrains

3852. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector has offered investments in food storage, handling and transportation to ease pressure on FCI in the wake of mounting buffer stocks of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether as a pre-condition to investment, they have demanded 100 per cent space utilisation guarantee by Government; and

(c) what incentives have already been offered by Government to the private sector

to encourage its participation in storage and transportation of foodgrains?

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Quality of imported food-items

3853. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent survey conducted by the CII reveals that 70 per cent of the imported food-items did not qualify the country's food laws;

(b) whether it is also a fact that they are not even qualifying the international standard specifications;

(c) if so, whether Government have identified such items imported into the country; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter?

Issue price of wheat

3854. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether issue price of wheat to flour mills in the Western zone is much higher than the issue price in the Northern zone;

(b) whether it is a fact that higher issue price leads to higher price for wheat-based products;

(c) whether Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to reduce the issue price of wheat to flour mills;

(d) if so, whether Government have agreed to the request; and

Consumer fora in Gujarat

3855. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:
Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has represented for one time grant for creating consumer fora in the new districts;

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to provide the grant; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Auctions of rotten foodgrains

†3856. SHRI MANOHAR KANT
DHYANI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 354 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th August, 2001 and state:

(a) the places where the rotten foodgrains have been disposed off by auctions and the number of people that participated in such auctions;

(b) the official value of 502.138 tonne wheat, 16.75 tonne flour and 460.95 tonne rice and the amount recovered through auctions for these items; and

(c) whether such foodgrains are still lying in godowns?

Merger of NTH with BIS

3857. SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

merger of National Test House with Bureau of Indian Standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been examined by any group of experts or professionals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Minimum price for export of basmati rice

3858. DR. (MS.) P. SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed minimum price for export of basmati rice to European countries;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of basmati rice to be exported during the year 2002-03; and

(c) the other varieties of rice to be permitted/promoted by Government for export from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh?

Identification of BPL families

3859. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States have identified Below Poverty Line families so far;

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

(c) if not, by when the States would complete this exercise; and

(d) the manner in which the BPL families would get the benefits that is due to them, where the identification of BPL families has not yet been done?

Inadequate storage arrangements in Punjab

† 3860. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to inadequate storage arrangement in Punjab wheat stored since 1997 is being damaged;

(b) if so, the quantity of the wheat so stored; and

(c) whether Government propose to undertake any rapid action to prevent this kind of loss of foodgrains?

Gradaation of Swarna paddy

† 3861. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Swarna paddy grown by a large number of farmers of Chhattisgarh was kept in Grade 'A' earlier;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this paddy is now being kept under coarse gains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken by Government to compensate the losses suffered by the farmers of Chhattisgarh as a result of this decision; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Quota of edible oil to the States

3862. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the demand of edible oil Government have received from each State, particularly Rajasthan;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have fixed any quota for edible oil;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the quantity of edible oil provided to Rajasthan during the last three years?

Off take by Fair Price Shops

3863. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the actual off take of Fair Price Shops falls short of the standard off take;

(b) whether it is also a fact that detailed guidelines were issued by his Ministry in respect of Area Officer Scheme in early 2000; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

Diversion of PDS stocks

3864. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Distribution System stocks are being diverted due to lack of surveillance by the State authorities;

(b) if so, the quantum of foodgrains diverted during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether any effective steps have been taken to put an end to this foul practice?

Trucks/Vans under PDS infrastructure

3865. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the purpose

of strengthening of PDS infrastructure trucks/vans are also provided to make available essential commodities in rural/hilly/remote areas;

(b) whether Government subsidise the cost of such vehicles, if so, the amount paid during the last three years; and

(c) the number of trucks/vans and in whose custody these vehicles are maintained and what has been the average life?

Report of expert committee on new food policy

3866. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any expert committee on new food policy has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the terms of reference of the committee; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when it is expected to submit the final report?

Final Report on New Food Policy

3867. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the final report of the Expert Committee on New Food Policy;

(b) if so, whether the Committee had also submitted an interim report;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to implement the recommendations made in the interim report;

(d) if so, what are the main recommendations made in the final report; and

(e) how many of them have been considered and implemented, so far?

Sugar production

3868. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's sugar production has increased to 5.66 million tonnes in the first three months of the sugar year that began in October;

(b) if so, whether inspite of this, the industry feels that the output in the current season is lower in comparison to the last year;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same;

(d) the steps being taken by Government to improve output of sugar; and

(e) whether sugar production has also reached the highest in comparison to the previous years?

Report of High Level Committee on NRI

† 3869. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in receipt of the report of the Committee on NRI constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Lakshmimal Singhvi;

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

(c) whether Government have considered the same; and

(d) if so, by when the recommendations are likely to be implemented by Government?

American policy regarding export of military equipment

† 3870. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that America intends to transform India into a largest market of military equipment and defence materials and in view thereof the statement made by the U.S. Secretary of State following the successful test of the "Agni" missile it appears that America wants to make India its tool;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Britain, France and Germany have also condemned India on the tune of America; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Help to Nepal to combat Maoist insurgents

3871. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have offered equipments and training to Nepal for combating Maoist insurgents;

(b) if so, whether the revised extradition treaty between both the countries is going to smash ISI activities in Nepal;

(c) if so, to what extent; and

(d) what other steps both the countries jointly propose to take to check ISI activities in both the countries?

Setting up of IT Institute in Kabul

3872. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to set up

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

an I.T. Institute in Kabul besides schools and hospitals; and

(b) if so, by when the construction would start and the target set up for completion of the projects?

Pakistani missiles

3873. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spokesperson of General Musharraf has said that Pakistan is in possession of missiles which can target any city in India; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and what precautionary measures Government are going to take in this regard?

Indo-US talks regarding CTBT

3874. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-US official level meet was held in New Delhi to discuss among others, the Nuclear issues like the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks; and

(c) what other issues were discussed therein and the decisions, if any, arrived at?

Bush's instruction to Pakistan to end cross-border terrorism

3875. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US President George Bush has again asked on 9th March, 2002 the

Pak military ruler Parvez Musharraf to end cross-border terrorism and not to play games about terrorism and to create conditions for meaningful dialogue with India on bilateral issues; and

(b) if so, what was Pak's response and Government's reaction thereto?

Extradition Treaty between India and Pakistan

3876. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to Islamabad in connection with the SAARC meeting of Information Ministers, Pakistan indicated its intention to enter into an Extradition Treaty with India for exchange of fugitives;

(b) whether the Pak-authorities also impressed upon their desire for talks with India on various bilateral issues; and

(c) if so, Government's response thereto?

Pakistan's invitation to Home Minister

3877. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan's Interior Minister lately invited the Union Home Minister to visit Islamabad;

(b) if so, in what context such invitation was spelt out and what was its implication; and

(c) what was the Home Minister's response thereto?

**Ratification of Mutual Legal
Assistance Treaty with
America**

3878. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1248 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government propose early ratification of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty signed by the two countries; and

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

Indian emigrants in Pakistan

3879. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian emigrants in Pakistan and *vice-versa*;

(b) whether termination of the Train and Bus services have affected/will affect these people badly; and

(c) if so, the alternative arrangements Government had made/proposed to make in order to help these people?

Incentives to NRIs

3880. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme or propose to give any incentives to NRI and persons of India origin for development of their intellectual management and entrepreneurial resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other incentives offered by Government to attract NRIs potential?

Conference of OIC

3881. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the proceedings of the conference of OIC held recently in Malaysia;

(b) if so, whether Government are also aware of the distinction made by the OIC between legitimate freedom struggle waged by the Palestinian people against the occupation by the Israeli armed forces and terrorism;

(c) if so, whether Government are in agreement with such a view; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Violation of UN resolutions by Israel

3882. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the violations of UN resolution by Israel in West Bank and rest of the Palestinian territory;

(b) if so, whether Government have been in touch with that country and pointed out such violations;

(c) if so, the response thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Pressures on Israel to withdraw from
West Bank**

3883. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what diplomatic pressure has been exerted on Israel Government to withdraw from the occupied land of Palestine, i.e., West Bank and Gaza strip; and

(b) the role played by Government to free Yasser Arafat from the siege of Ramolla by Israeli Army and allow him to act democratically; from his Headquarters at Ramolla?

**Tour to neighbouring countries by
Ministry of External Affairs**

3884. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has visited China and other neighbouring countries during April, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the meeting held by him with foreign dignitaries and the matters discussed; and

(c) whether his visit has been successful?

Extradition treaty with Thailand

† 3885. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to consider on Indo-Thailand Extradition Treaty;

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

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

Job seekers' death abroad

† 3886. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of

Indian lose their lives in the allurement of getting jobs in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the number of such cases noticed during the last six months and whether Government have taken any step so far to prevent such incidents; and

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

**Pakistani citizenship to Dawood
Ibrahim**

3887. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's most wanted don Dawood Ibrahim was granted Pakistani citizenship;

(b) if so, whether this information has been received by the Central intelligence agencies as well as the intelligence wing of the Mumbai Police;

(c) whether any such information was conveyed to US and Pakistan; and

(d) if so, what is reaction of the Pakistani Government in this regard?

Extradition of Pirabhakaran

3888. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take immediate steps to seek the LTTE chief Pirabhakaran's extradition to India in connection with Rajiv Gandhi assassination; and

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) what political and diplomatic initiative have been taken in this regard?

apprehend the freed rebels to contain transborder terrorism?

India's intervention in diffusing West Asia crisis

3889. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has sought India's intervention in diffusing the on-going West Asia crisis; and

(b) if so, Governments response thereto?

Optimisation of expenses incurred by Indian Missions

3890. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made recently to optimise expenses being incurred by the missions abroad in the interest of fiscal discipline;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would consider doing so and by when?

Release of rebels by Myanmar

3891. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report captioned "Myanmar snubs India fresh rebels" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 18th March, 2002;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to persuade the Myanmar Government to

Permanent Membership in Security Council

3892. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the prospects of our bid for a permanent seat in the Security Council;

(b) by when such a move would be taken up in the UN Assembly;

(c) whether any initiative has been made to seek active support of other member countries to secure success in the matter;

(d) the progress achieved, so far; and

(e) the countries which have given an assurance of extending their support for India's permanent membership?

Duping by Kuwaiti agencies

3893. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry about the dubious manpower agencies, operating from Kuwait, which are duping unsuspecting young men in league with their agents in India;

(b) if so, whether several other manpower agencies in Gulf countries are also duping the Indian and whether Government's request to blacklist such agencies has been honoured by them;

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

(d) the steps taken by Government to check functioning of such agencies in league with their agents in India?

Prime Minister's visit to Singapore and Cambodia

3894. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has visited Singapore and Cambodia in the month of April, 2002;

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit;

(c) to what extent the Prime Minister has been able to convince the Singapore and Cambodia to invest more in India;

(d) the agreements reached during his visit;

(e) to what extent both the countries have agreed to open the trade and investment in India; and

(f) whether the proposal of defence cooperation also figures during the discussion; and if so, the details thereof?

Facilities to Hajis at Mecca

3895. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the facilities provided by Government to Hajis;

(b) whether it is a fact that there was no provision of lift for aged Hajis in Mecca where Hajis are housed, making life miserable for ageing pilgrims;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether in spite of Government's spending of Rs. 150 crore subsidy as a magnanimous gesture to Hajis such kind of inconvenience is existing and similar

reciprocation is not being made by Saudi Arabian Government; and

(e) whether Government would contact the Saudi Government to enter into a joint venture to improve the facilities to help Hajis from India?

Release of Parliament attack accused by Pakistan

3896. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that the former leader of the outlawed militant Islamic group who was accused by India of the December 13 attack on the Parliament was freed on 1st April, 2002 by Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether India has lodged strong protest to Pakistan over this issue;

(c) if so, Pakistan's reaction thereto; and

(d) whether Pakistan is not willing to handover these terrorist leaders to India?

US suggestion to Pakistan to hand over Indian terrorists

3897. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the latest report, US has proposed to Pakistan that Islamabad should turn over 20 terrorists sought by New Delhi or else try and convict them within Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has rejected US's move in this regard;

(c) whether India has insisted that until and unless these terrorists wanted by India are handed over, no further talks will continue; and

(d) if so, what are the efforts being made by US in this regard?

Revision of Visa rules by USA

3898. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in 'The Tribune' dated the 12th April, 2002 captioned 'USA Unveils New Visa Rules';

(b) if so, the details of the revised rules governing visas for businessmen, tourists and students to enhance homeland security and to strengthen/control immigration;

(c) whether the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service has also made any changes to the standards for extension of stay, limiting the conditions under which a B visitor can obtain an extension under 'Unexpected or compelling humanitarian reasons' if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures Government propose to take to redress the grievances of Indian visitors?

Visit of Russian delegation

3899. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Russia delegation visited India in the 1st week of February, 2002;

(b) if so, the subjects of mutual interest discussed with them;

(c) the agreement reached during the visit and other details in this regard; and

(d) the assistance expected therefrom?

Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

3900. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India expressed its shock and outrage at the United States' decision to oppose seven years of sustained efforts to cobble a multilateral protocol to strengthen the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention;

(b) if so, whether this led to collapse of the talks among 144 countries;

(c) whether India has declared US move as unacceptable;

(d) if so, whether India was among 143 countries that worked hard to arrive at the BTWC protocol; and

(e) Government's reaction on the US stand on this issue?

Long term labour intensive industrial development plan

3901. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating a long terms labour intensive industrial development plan for reducing unemployment in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Employees under ESI scheme

3902. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees covered under the employees State Insurance Scheme alongwith the number of doctors

and employees engaged by ESIC for the purpose, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of expenditure on administration and medicines by ESIC; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to improve medical care in the ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries, which is the worst in the country?

National Commission on Labour

3903. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a National Commission on Labour;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the Commission;

(c) by when was the Commission asked to submit its report;

(d) whether the Commission has given its report to Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Physically handicapped job seekers in the country

3904. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of job seekers in the physically handicapped category in the country, in various type of handicaps, State-wise;

(b) what steps are being taken to provide them with jobs based on their physical handicaps; and

(c) the reasons for not providing them with suitable opportunities for jobs by Government?

Violation of labour laws by transport companies

3905. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transport companies attached with the Mother Dairy's (F&V) Plant, Mangolpuri, New Delhi are grossly violating the labour laws and neither paying wages as per rules nor depositing any contributions with the EPF towards drivers and helpers appointed by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would conduct through probe into the labour violation by the said transport companies; and

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

Female workers in fish processing units

3906. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women/adolescent girls working in Fish Processing Units in the country;

(b) whether most of these women/girls work at night and if so, how safety is ensured for them particularly against sexual harassment;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to peeling prawns, crabs with bare fingers in saline water, for hours together, they develop eczema, their fingers bleed etc; and

(d) if so, in what manner minimum safety is ensured for these women against work hazard?

Unemployment problem

3907. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of unemployment problem indicating the number of unemployed both educated and uneducated, State-wise; and

(b) the number of direct and indirect employment generated through NGOs by implementation of Government schemes as well as funding from other sources including foreign funding, State-wise?

Death of beedi workers

† 3908. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons and other details of the deaths of most of the beedi workers;

(b) whether most of the beedi workers die due to non-availability of treatment;

(c) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration for Group Treatment Insurance Scheme for the welfare and better treatment of beedi workers; and

(d) if so, the district-wise details of the beedi workers insured under the Group Insurance Scheme?

Employees under EPF and GPF

3909. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees covered under Employees Provident Fund and General Provident Fund Scheme in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that many employers including State/Union Government Undertakings are not

depositing EPF/GPF contribution and not even the employees' contribution deducted from their salaries; and

(c) if so, the number of cases filed against erring employers under Section 406 and 409 of IPC and how many of them have been punished till date?

Eligibility for LTC

3910. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of grant of LTC to the employees of the Central Government or autonomous bodies;

(b) whether re-employed pensioners or employees appointed on contract basis are eligible for LTC facilities;

(c) whether LTC paid to the above mentioned employees during the year 2001 and 2002 is valid; and

(d) if not, what action is proposed to be taken against them or the concerned authorities?

Prior approval of DOPT for appointment on deputation

3911. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prior approval of the DOPT is mandatory/essential in those deputationist cases which are covered under para 8.4 of DOPT OM No. 2/29/91-Estt. (Pay-II) dated the 5th January, 1994;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals in this regard received in the Department during the last five years; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken in those cases where prior approval of the DOPT was not obtained?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Penalising employees for giving false evidence

3912. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for penalising Government employees who give probably false evidence in departmental enquiries initiated under CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Irregularities in the financial upgradation under ACP in ICHR

3913. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the cases of financial upgradation under the ACP scheme that have come to Government's notice where the employees have been granted benefit without completing prescribed norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly the persons granted benefit in ICHR;

(c) whether Government propose to take action in such cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Services of Chartered Accountants to CBI

3914. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to approve the proposal of the Central Bureau of Investigation to use services of Chartered Accountants or Chartered Accountant Firms in their investigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether CBI is facing problems in investigating financial irregularities, especially in the capital market; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed by Government to help CBI in this regard?

Regularisation of *ad hoc* services of SC/ST officers in Ministry of Textiles

3915. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI ANIL SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether UPSC deliberately delayed for 20 months regularisation of *ad hoc* services of SC/ST officers of 1976/1977 batches in Ministry of Textiles already approved by the Ministry six years back and returned the proposals in February last taking cognizance of irrelevant circular dated the 23rd July, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor indicating the names of such officers;

(c) whether identical cases of the officers of the same batches were approved by the Commission three years back; and

(d) if so, the justification for this discrimination?

Inquiry initiated by officer of same rank

3916. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inquiry Officer in an enquiry intimated under CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 amended till date, can be of a rank equivalent to that of a complainant;

(b) if so, the details of the relevant provisions; and

(c) if not, whether the enquiry, if conducted by such an equivalent officer, is vitiated?

Representation from All India Association of SC/ST and Physically Handicapped

3917. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the grievances submitted to the Prime Minister's Office by the All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped People's upliftment through post/by hand from 24th August, 2001 to date;

(b) the details of the demands made therein;

(c) the details of the directives sent to the concerned authorities and the action taken as per DOPT/Government policy on reservation;

(d) the reasons for not implementing DOPT orders and not taking action by the concerned authorities inspite of several reminders; and

(e) by when the action would be taken?

Re-introduction of Single Directive

3918. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Single Directive', prohibiting investigation against officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above without Government's permission, is being re-introduced;

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

(c) the number of officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above who are being investigated at present by CBI; and

(d) how many such officers have been

prosecuted during the last five years?

Remuneration to retired employees working as inquiry officers

† 3919. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965, a retired personnel can be appointed as inquiry officer for departmental inquiry;

(b) if so, the details of the relevant provisions;

(c) whether there is any provision for providing remuneration to such retired personnel;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such an arrangement also exists for presenting officers and defence assistants; and

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

New slaughter houses

3920. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended to make some new slaughter houses in the country under the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendation made alongwith the proposed locations?

Creation of more jobs

3921. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

are planning to generate more jobs during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, how many such jobs would be generated;

(c) which areas would provide these jobs;

(d) by when it would be operational; and

(e) what would be the criteria for selection of the people for such jobs?

Constitution of National Commission for population

3922. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the National Commission for population was constituted together with its composition, tenure, duties and functions;

(b) whether the Commission yet started functioning and if so, the number of meetings held so far and the decisions taken therein;

(c) the steps taken, if any, to give effect to the decisions of the Commission;

(d) the other concrete measures taken to help in stabilisation process of the country's population; and

(e) the success achieved so far?

Special category status to Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

3923. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to its backwardness Uttaranchal is considered as a State under special category; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take for granting special status to Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand?

Special packages for NER and Kashmir

3924. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether special packages declared for NER and Kashmir are part of normal Five Year Plan or it is additional;

(b) whether Government have decided to implement these programmes only with 10 per cent budgetary allocation for NER;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the project-wise sources of additional resources already mobilized and to be mobilized for assuring time-bound implementation thereof?

Poverty alleviation programmes

3925. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the poverty alleviation programmes taken up for tackling poverty during 2002-2003; and

(b) the other steps taken in this regard?

Special status to Bihar

†3926. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the statement made by the Director General of Bihar Police, "Rajya main aam aadamee kee zindagee vakae"

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

kathin ho gai hai" as appeared in the India Today, dated the 20th February, 2002;

(b) if so, whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to grant special status to Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Conversion of various roads of Gujarat into National Highways

†3927. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has been requesting over a number of years to convert various roads in Gujarat into National Highways;

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

(c) whether Government are considering to formulate a time-bound scheme on the said request?

Inter-city Expressways

3928. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to construct 2000 kms. of Inter-city Expressways in the country;

(b) whether it would be a Central Government project or a joint project of the Central and concerned State Governments or private sector's participation would be sought;

(c) by when the work on this project is likely to commence; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

Drunken driving in Delhi

3929. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the main reasons for road accidents in Delhi is drunken driving;

(b) if so, the number of accidents occurred during the last three years in Delhi and the number of persons arrested due to drunken driving; and

(c) what exemplary punishment is being awarded to the persons driving under influence of drugs and alcohol during late night hours and festivities?

Road accidents in Delhi

3930. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been highest number of accidental deaths in the capital;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the authorities have failed to take stringent steps matching the ever increasing traffic resulting the highest number of accidental deaths as well as injuries to road users in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps being taken by Government to augment the traffic management and expediting completion of medical legal formalities by the police authorities?

Setting up of different zones for upkeep of National Highways

3931. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

different zones on the lines of railways for proper upkeep and maintenance of National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Condition of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh

3932. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways of Uttar Pradesh are not in good condition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the amount allocated to Uttar Pradesh for construction of new National Highways, repairs and maintenance of the existing National Highways; and

(d) the length of National Highways repaired during the year 2001-2002?

Development of roads in U.P.

3933. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop the existing roads in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Allocation of funds for construction of State roads

3934. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not been allocating funds to the State Governments for construction of State roads and major roads;

(b) if so, whether a large number of important State roads and major roads in various States are awaiting their expansion and maintenance etc., and the States are unable to do so due to funds paucity;

(c) if so, whether any plans have been made to declare more State roads and major roads in the country as National Highways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Declaration of State Highways as National Highways

3935. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Highways, indicating the length, declared as National Highways so far since 1998-1999 in various States;

(b) whether the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other Southern States have requested his Ministry to declare approximately 1100 Kilometer of roads as National Highways; and

(c) if so, the details of the projects and the action taken by the Ministry in this regard?

Road over bridge

3936. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of work of road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 50-C at Km 943/3-5 in Fatehpur district of Uttar Pradesh;

- (b) the target period for its completion;
and
(c) the cost of the project?

Promotion of SSIs

3937. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether PHDCCI study has mooted a 10 point agenda for SSIs to make them competitive and to provide a major policy thrust for limiting imports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to promote SSIs and for limiting imports and protecting SSIs by putting up tariff barrier?

Increase in units under SSI sector

†3938. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of industrial units under the Small Scale Sector has increased in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of these units at the end of March, 1998 and March, 2001;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of sick units has also increased in the Small Scale Sector during the said period; and

(d) if so, what was the number of such units at the end of March, 2001 and the amount of capital invested therein?

Revival of SSI in Jharkhand and Bihar

3939. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries closed down in Jharkhand and Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for their closure; and

(c) the efforts made and the steps taken by Government to revive these units before their closure?

Dereservation of items enlisted for SSI sector

†3940. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of products reserved to be manufactured by Small Scale Industries has been reduced from time to time during the period from March, 1998 to March, 2002;

(b) if so, when and which products have been taken out from the reserved list; and

(c) the products existed in the reserved list by the end of March, 2002?

Healthy growth of exports in SSI sector

3941. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports of small scale sector have posted a healthy growth of nearly 11 per cent during 2000-2001;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what was the growth during 1999-2000;

(c) while the exports have increased by nearly 11 per cent, employment in the sector at 185.64 lakh during 2000-2001 was merely 4 per cent higher than the employment level of 178.5 lakh during 1999-2000;

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

(e) what efforts are being made to generate more employment in the sector?

MoUs in the field of space

3942. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any MoUs have been entered into with various countries during the past three years in the field of space; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Indigenous satellite technology

†3943. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the satellites launched by the India into space were based on foreign technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to launch the satellites on its own technology;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when, these satellites are likely to be launched?

Launching of satellites

†3944. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of satellites launched during the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the number of those which were successful and are working in the space;

(c) the number of satellites proposed to be launched during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) the salient features of those satellites?

Non-utilisation of funds sanctioned under MPLADS

3945. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of non-utilisation of funds allocated under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) by some of the MPs;

(b) if so, the amount remained unspent/unutilised during the last year, State-wise;

(c) whether works have not been executed in some cases even after sanction of works and issue of administrative approvals;

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

(e) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government for utilisation of funds under MPLADS?

NEW DELHI;
The 26th April, 2002
Vaisakha 6, 1924 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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