

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the May 2, 2003/Vaisakha 12, 1925 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

Fall in rice production in comparison to wheat

4332. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1732 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th March, 2003 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fall in production in the financial year 2002-2003 was expected to be sharp in the case of rice than wheat; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to supply required foodgrains for PDS schemes from the Central Pool?

Drought assistance to Andhra Pradesh

4333. SHRI RUMANDLA
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY;
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO:
SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh

Government had submitted a demand for Rs. 2373 crore more of drought aid to the Central team visiting the State-Capital on February 6, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the demand for drought relief spelt out by Andhra Government and the Central Government's response thereto; and

(c) how the aid granted for drought relief and allied measures to Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and other drought hit States this year, for different relief measures compare, indicating the extent of damage to crop and other afflictions and population hit thereby in each State as compared to Andhra Pradesh?

Grants to HP from National Commission for Cattle

4334. SHRIANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the National Commission for Cattle was established;

(b) the grants released by the Commission to Goshalas and Dairy

establishments in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years; and

(c) whether grants were released to such Goshalas and Dairy Farms directly, if so, the amount of such grants given to each of such establishments along with other details?

Termination of contracts by NDDB

4335. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NDDB has terminated contracts with several cooperative milk marketing federations recently as appeared in the media;

(b) if so, whether the termination of contract by NDDB with milk federations is going to have any impact on its functioning;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a large number of cooperatives with whom the contract have been terminated have dues to NDDB; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Promoting bio-diesel

4336. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will soon come out with an action plan to launch pilot projects in different States to promote bio-diesel as an alternative fuel;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry is exploring the contract farming avenues to promote oil palm cultivation;

(c) whether Government have decided

to consult experts which would work out various details including the technical and commercial linkages, cost of production of bio-diesel;

(d) if so, whether a meeting of the concerned Central and State Departments have been convened to discuss the pilot project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Assistance to Rajasthan

†4337. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of Rs. 682.35 crore given recently to Rajasthan by Government on account of drought is sufficient upto the month of July;

(b) the amount of assistance sought by Rajasthan Government in respect of drought;

(c) whether Government propose to consider B.P.L. and A.P.L. families in same category in Rajasthan due to drought situation; and

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

Production and storage of fruits and vegetables

†4338. SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of vegetables and fruits in the country at present and the quantity of vegetables and fruits spoiled in the absence of proper maintenance and storage facilities;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the capacity of storage of fruits and vegetables at present in the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to process the food items, if so, by when?

Joint ventures between NDDB and State Co-operative Milk Federations

4339. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the share-holding pattern on joint ventures between National Dairy Development Board and the State Co-operative Milk Federations;

(b) whether under this JV scheme the state federations would be free to market their own produce or even opt out of the JV proposal;

(c) whether it is a fact that milk production has been increasing at the rate of 9 per cent annually and marketing only by 4 per cent; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Incentives for oilseed production

†4340. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soyabean Processing Association of India has urged Government to give incentive to increase the production of oilseeds in lieu of coarse cereals;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a need to give incentive for increasing the

production of oilseeds as the production of oilseeds is going down during the last years; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard and the action taken by Government to inspire it?

Contract Farming

4341. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new concept 'Contract Farming', is catching up fast in the agricultural sector in the country, with large corporates and MNCs evincing interest and participating in a big way in the projects across the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, with its merits and de-merits in relation to small farmers;

(c) whether, the interest of farmers is taken care of in this emerging concept of farming; and

(d) if so, details in this regard?

Establishment of Fodder Banks

4342. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are providing Central funds to the States for the establishment of Fodder Banks in the States to meet the exigencies in natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds released to Gujarat, so far, for the purpose and results achieved therefrom?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Import of seeds

4343. MISS PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have to import seeds of improved varieties, in order to meet shortages;

(b) if so, the total number of varieties of seeds imported during the last three years and the amount spent thereon; and

(c) the details of its distribution, State-wise?

Development of Golden Rice

4344. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the University of Agriculture Science, Bangalore, has come forward for development of 'Golden Rice' in our country to solve the malnutrition in rural India;

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

(c) whether Government consider encouragement of this in rural focused programmes if so, the details thereof?

Assistance to KVKs

4345. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) functioning in the country along with the financial allocation made for each KVKs;

(b) whether the functioning of the KVKs are very useful to the agriculturists;

(c) if so, whether Government would

come forward to set up more KVKs and release necessary financial assistance in the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Cultivation of medicinal plants in Rajasthan

4346. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is great potential for cultivation of medicinal plants in certain areas of Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey so as to ascertain the exact locations where medicinal plants could be grown;

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

(d) whether despite availability of various species of medicinal plants in those areas, there is no infrastructure for marketing of those by products of valuable medicinal plants; and

(e) if so, measure contemplated by Government to improve the situation?

Checking import of dairy products

†4347. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Dairy Development Board has asked Government to formulate a proper policy to check the indiscriminate import of dairy product in the country; and

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

Relief to farmers of scarcity zones

4348. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have evolved a special strategy to give relief to the farmers of scarcity zones of the country, particularly drought prone districts of Gujarat, against high prices of fertilizers, diesels and high rate of interest on agricultural loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the same?

Technology Mission on Cotton in A.P.

4349. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Intensive Cotton Development Programme under Technology Mission on Cotton in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) what was the progress regarding distribution of seed, bio-agents, sprayers, drip irrigation system etc. during the last three years in the State, year-wise?

Minimizing use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides

4350. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider it important to minimize the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on the soil; and

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

Shortage of fodder

4351. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of

acute shortage of fodder due to serious drought situation in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken by Government to strengthen fodder bank and seed production in these States; and

(c) whether any amount has been released to these States so far, in this regard in the financial year 2002-03; and if so, the details thereof?

Development of bacterial-wilt resistant chilli

4352. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists of the Department of Olericulture of Kerala Agricultural University has developed a bacterial-wilt resistant chilli;

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

(c) by when the commercial production of this variety could be taken up?

Drought assistance to Bihar

†4353. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the damage caused to various crops in Bihar due to the fury of cold wave/drought;

(b) whether Government have formulated any package for affected farmers and fruit growers of Bihar; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the relief funds are likely to be provided to affected farmers of Bihar?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Crop Adjustment Programme

4354. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how the Centre has reacted to "Crop Adjustment Programme" mooted by the agriculture scientists of Punjab under the guidance of eminent agriculture scientist, Dr. S.S. Jahl;

(b) how the Centre propose to encourage it in the context of Second Green Revolution for the country; and

(c) whether it could be tried in other States also and if so, to what advantage?

Availability of quality seeds

4355. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of availability of quality seeds farmers have been affected at large;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether superior seeds varieties have been made available through National Seeds Boards?

Agricultural Colleges for tribal people

4356. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural Colleges set up in the country;

(b) the number of such institutions in the tribal areas; and

(c) the special initiative to provide Agriculture Education to the tribal people?

Adverse effect of Indian patent law

4357. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of Indian patent law costs drug multinational companies adversely;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact on investment on research for new drug discovery?

Production of fertilizers

4358. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for production of different kinds of fertilizer during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) how far these targets have been achieved;

(c) the details of steps taken to improve the production of fertilizers in the country; and

(d) how Government propose to discuss the problem of balanced use of NPK?

Alternatives of chemicals pesticides

†4359. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering to use alternative and unharmed pesticides, seeds of neem and other traditional seeds instead of chemicals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Task Force on chemical industry

†4360. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of Task Force on Chemical Industry is still under Government's consideration;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations accepted by Government on *ad-hoc* basis for implementation; and

(c) by when the accepted recommendations are likely to be implemented?

Exemption to life saving drugs from Excise and Custom duties

4361. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action is being taken by Government to exempt all "life saving drugs" from Excise and Custom duties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of drug industries to such decision?

Consumption of synthetic detergent, chemicals and fertilizers

4362. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and consumption of elastomers and synthetic Detergents in the last three years;

(b) whether consumption is more than the quantity of production;

(c) if so, whether any action is taken to increase the production to match with consumption;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Prices of Becosules and Corax

4363. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medicines Becosules and Corax are the number one and number two products in the Indian Pharmaceutical market; and

(b) whether the prices for these two products have been approved, if so, the details thereof?

Handing over of PPL to Zuari Moraq Phosphates

4364. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the strategic control of Paradeep Phosphates Ltd. (PPL) handed over to Zuari Moraq Phosphates;

(b) whether any proceed from disinvestment of PPL has been received so far;

(c) if so, the actual amount and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the value of fixed assets including plant and machinery; and

(e) the capacity utilization of the plant before disinvestment and the actual figure as available after disinvestment?

R and D fund for drug industry

4365. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that R and D fund of around 150 crores was proposed by the Finance Minister in 1999 Budget speech for the drug industry; and

(b) if so, what are the parameters and name of the authority for the disbursement of these funds?

Categorisation of chemical fertilizer projects

†4366. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the chemical fertilizer projects of the country have been divided into six categories under the group-base concession scheme;

(b) if so, name of units alongwith categories under which these units have been divided;

(c) criteria on which these categories have been separated; and

(d) the production capacity of fertilizer production units of each category in the country at present?

Budget allocation for urea subsidy

4367. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budgetary allocations made by Government for urea subsidies during the current financial year;

(b) whether above allocation for urea is sufficient keeping in view the welfare of Indian farmers;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this respect?

New Drugs Price Control Order

4368. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. M.N. DAS:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bangalore High Court has thrown out the new pharma policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to defend its position; and

(d) by when Government propose to come out with the new Drugs Price Control Order?

Low yield of Bt. Cotton

4369. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Competent Authority is aware of the report "Probe sought into failure of first Bt. Cotton Crop" as appeared in the media;

(b) if so, the action taken thereupon;

(c) whether any submission/representation is received from 'Gene Campaign' asking for compensation for the farmers who had suffered because of the low yield in the Bt. cotton plantation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the mandatory regulatory authorities have been set up before the GM crop cultivation;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) whether a detailed inquiry will be conducted on the above report?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Compensation to developed countries

4370. DR. AKHILESH DAS:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

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

(a) whether at the world summit on sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002, a 10 year work plan to reduce the production and consumption patterns had been agreed upon;

(b) if so, the details of the work plan; indicating the compensation the developed countries are expected to pay to the developing countries to help the latter achieve the goal; and

(c) the compensation expected by India under this scheme?

Failure of Yamuna Action Plan

4371. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite thousands of crores spent on Yamuna Action Plan-1st Phase, including hundreds of crores received from Japan, the water received by Delhi in Yamuna is so heavily polluted that the water treatment plants operated by Delhi Jal Board have to be frequently shut down;

(b) if so, the details of the expenditure incurred by the Centre and the State Governments concerned, including that from foreign banks and other resources, on the Yamuna Action Plan, and the projects funded and implemented therewith; and

(c) the reasons for failure of the Yamuna Action Plan so far?

Existing system of pollution check

4372. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Science and Environment has criticised the Union Government for failing to put in place an effective system to test polluting vehicles;

(b) if so, whether the existing system to check pollution of vehicles is not worthy;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to remove the various bottlenecks in the system?

National Forest Commission

4373. SHRI GHULAM NABI
AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

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

(a) whether the first-national Forest Commission has been set up by Government;

(b) if so, whether this Commission has been given specific period of time for submitting its report;

(c) if so, who are its members; and

(d) by what time the report is likely to be submitted?

Committee for control and supervision of experiments on animals

4374. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

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

(a) the details of Members on the Committee for the purpose of control and

supervision of experiments on animals;

(b) the details of animal activists in the Committee;

(c) whether it is a fact that the National Institute of Immunology, Indian Institute of Sciences and many scientists are demanding for re-constitution of the Committee with neutral members;

(d) if so, the details of the demand; and

(e) the action that has been contemplated by Government on their demand?

Water and sanitation

4375. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any strategy and plan of action has been or is being worked out to bring water and sanitation within the reach of the entire population of the country within a specified span, in line with the decision taken by the world summit on sustainable Development, Johannesburg 2002; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the percentage of population (i) rural and (ii) urban; State wise to whom water and sanitation is not yet accessible; and

(c) the target fixed in this regards under the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Schemes for forest development in Madhya Pradesh

†4376. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted 11 schemes of forest promotion involving the total cost of Rs. 736.84 crores to the Government of India during November, 1999 to 2001;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Madhya Pradesh had submitted State Forest Action Plan for approval on 31st November, 2000; and

(c) if so, the details of decision taken by the Central Government on both schemes?

Forest destruction due to fire

4377. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item 'Fire destroys 300 hectares of Gir forests' as appeared in media recently;

(b) if so, the details of destruction of forests due to fire;

(c) whether Government propose to do investigation in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against those who were found to be responsible for the fire?

Dwindling mangrove cover

4378. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports "Warning bells over dwindling mangrove cover" in Orissa, as appeared in the media;

(b) whether the cover offers the greatest bio-diversity next to Papua New Guinea, in the world;

(c) whether this forest has not been receiving the required attention in our country and it has under-gone vast degradation; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, help rendered by the Centre to save this dwindling cover in Orissa?

Death of Olive Ridley Turtles

4379. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have investigated into the causes of the death of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtles in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the approximate number of sea turtles died in the State during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to give proper protection to these rare species?

Mercury Pollution

4380. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the report released by the UNEP mercury pollution causing various deformities like chromosomal anomalies and other major deformities among the population;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to restrict the mercury pollution in the country; and

(c) the action taken to promote global cooperation on the subject?

Clearance for Hariharjore project

4381. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

* SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that

Orissa is a drought-prone State and agriculture is the main stay of the economy;

(b) whether Hariharjore project of the State is pending clearance with Government;

(c) whether Government are aware that on completion, it will provide a sigh of relief to the drought-hit farmers of the State; and

(d) if so, the time by when this would be cleared?

Green belt in Nagpur

4382. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a recent satellite picture of Nagpur has shown that the city has only 15 percent green belt left, whereas it has been dubbed as second greenest city in India and now again to achieve that status by 2010, an outlay of Rs. 30 crore was expected which has not yet been sanctioned, as appeared in media; and

(b) if so, whether Environment Ministry will use its good offices for this purpose?

Financial assistance to Rajasthan for environment project

4383. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

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

(a) whether any financial assistance has been provided by Government to the Rajasthan State Government for development and promotion of environment projects during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and the amount provided thereof;

(c) whether the funds provided by Government have been fully utilized by the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Survey to monitor forest

4384. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has conducted any survey to monitor any increase in forest cover in the country in recent years;

(b) if so, details of increase State-wise; and

(c) if not, whether Government are thinking seriously to develop forest cover, in view of pollution and less rainfall in the country?

Auction of seized timber

4385. SHRI INDRAMONI BORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Honourable Supreme Court has permitted *vide* order dated 15/1/1998, disposal of "illegally felled seized timber" duly inventorised and cleared by HPC by auction sale;

(b) whether it is also a fact that HPC cleared saw mills were taken on hire by Forest Department of Arunachal Pradesh to process that auctioned timber under supervision of Forest Department; and

(c) if so, who were responsible for dispatches and measurements of such processed timbers and what was the rule and procedure for dispatches of that timbers out side North East?

Timber wagons

4386. SHRI INDRAMONI BORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the timber wagons detained by Ministry during 1999-2000 were loaded with prior permissions and under supervision of Forest Officers of Assam as per orders of Honourable Supreme Court dated, 15/1/98;

(b) if so, why the physical verifications of all the detained wagons was done without informing the consignors to whom permission was granted; and

(c) whether any rule or guideline was prescribed for revalidation of Transit Passes and imposition of Hammer marks by the Ministry?

Bamboo for traditional users

4387. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent Government have interacted with State Governments to ensure that there is a proper supply of bamboo to traditional bamboo users;

(b) details of such specific interactions with State Governments on requests of NGOs and others;

(c) the outcome of such talks and discussions;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have lost interest in such matters; and

(e) if so, what steps are proposed to revive interest in this aspect of forest promotion;

Inspection of pollution emanating factories

†4388. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Pollution Control Board have conducted on the spot inspection of certain environmental pollution spreading factories/mills in various States particularly in Jharkhand;

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

(c) whether Government have received any report with regard to all these factories/mills?

Eco-tourism projects in Hyderabad

4389. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of the Andhra Pradesh Government called on the Minister with a proposal to set up eco-tourism projects in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have given clearance to the projects; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the environmental clearance is likely to be granted?

International Conference on Eco-design

4390. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during last November, Two-

day International Conference on Eco-design was held in Delhi, if so, the details of the areas covered by the Conference;

(b) what were the recommendations made at the end of the Conference;

(c) whether Government have implemented the same or formulated any strategy to reduce environmental load;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Pollution in rivers of Karnataka

4391. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution in major rivers in Karnataka has assumed serious proportions;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the result of the studies conducted, if any, in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

Allocation for setting up cold storage

4392. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial allocation made to set up cold storage during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the total number of agriculturists benefited through this scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether Government will come forward to allocate more funds to set up more cold storage projects, to help the agriculturists of our country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Trial of offences related with child abuse

4393. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to lack of clear provisions in the existing statute the trial of all offences of child sexual abuse are being dealt with according to the provisions applicable to rape cases;

(b) whether the NGOs working with victims of child sexual abuse have requested for an alternative system of trial for dealing with sex abuse victims; and

(c) the reaction of Government to their request?

Primary schools in Gujarat

4394. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of primary schools opened/proposed to be opened with foreign assistance in Gujarat, district-wise; and

(b) the amount provided to each district for this purpose during each of the last three years?

Management education out of the purview of AICTE

4395. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a representation has been made by some leading management schools in the country to take the management education out of purview of the statutory All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and put it under a new autonomous Council of

Management Education which is to be created through an Act of Parliament, as reported, the AICTE, being a technology and engineering-centric Council, is not able to give adequate attention to promote quality of management education; and

(b) if so, the details of the various suggestions received and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

Repairs and maintenance of Kendriya Vidyalayas buildings

4396. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that repairs and maintenance work relating to buildings of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Project Sector is undertaken/paid for by the concerned projects; and

(b) if so, the details of such Kendriya Vidyalayas of Bhopal and Jabalpur Regions and amount spent on repairs and maintenance by the each project during the preceding three years?

Mechanism to assess the quality of education

4397. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has a mechanism to assess the quality of education and facilities available in Universities/educational institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government realize the need for such a mechanism; and

(d) if so, why such a mechanism is not being developed?

Court's verdict in NCERT Text Book Controversy

†4398. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that though the court has justified the changes brought in by NCERT in the text books recently, several State Governments are showing reluctance for implementation of the said syllabus in the name of saffronisation of education, which is not justified;

(b) whether Government propose to take any action against State Governments who are not implementing the syllabus of the NCERT; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

School education — a Profitable enterprise

4399. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have noticed the trend among the middle-class/lower middle-class families of investing in education of their children as a priority;

(b) whether any scientific study has been conducted into this trend especially with a view to facilitate creation of necessary infrastructure towards fulfilling such mass aspiration about children;

(c) if so, salient findings of the study, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether this trend have fuelled mushrooming of 'convent' schools solely to fleece the parents even though providing education of indifferent quality to their children; and

(e) whether school education be

continued to be allowed as profitable enterprise?

Task Force to examine education related issues

4400. SHRIMAT AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Ministry has decided to provide higher education and has given a mandate to the task force that has been set up to examine a wide range of education-related issues;

(b) if so, whether the Task Force has been asked to examine student-related issues, including commercialization of education, expansion of professional education and the impact of inflation on recipients of scholarships;

(c) whether the Task Force has submitted its interim report to Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how many of its suggestions have been implemented?

Working procedure of Central Hindi Directorate

†4401. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the working procedure of Central Hindi Directorate and Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, as appeared in the media;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the action taken or being taken to streamline functioning of Central Hindi Directorate and Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology in the given context; and

(c) the reasons for not getting verified the character and deeds of guilty officials alongwith the steps going to be taken for prompt inquiry into this?

Value based education

4402. SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree that unemployment has contributed to the growing violence in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government are laying emphasis on value-based education which should cater to the needs of the unemployed youth;

(c) whether Government also agree that education system should create new avenues of employment; and

(d) if so, what measures Government have taken or are taking in this regard?

NCERT textbooks

4403. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has expressed serious concern over the non availability of NCERT textbooks in markets and directed to make them available within few days;

(b) if so, whether the NCERT from the last few years has failed to provide books in markets causing undue harassment to students;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that students are not deprived of books?

Less funds for basic education

4404. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news article captioned "Experts regret less funds for basic education" appeared in the media recently;

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

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to bridge the huge literacy gap in the next decade?

Number of students in Colleges/ Universities

†4405. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether Government have ascertained the total number of students admitted in the Universities and the colleges affiliated to them during the year 2001-2002; and

(b) if so, the total number thereof and out of them, what was the number of students studying in Graduation, Post-Graduation, M.Phil, Ph.D. Diploma and Degree Certificate Courses separately?

Legislation for sex workers

4406. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI RAM MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the joint womens programme, an NGO, which is spreading the campaign against commercial sex workers exploitation in the country, is demanding legislation for prostitution in the country;

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

(c) the response of Government to this demand?

Recommendation by Tapas Mazumdar Committee

†4407. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tapas Mazumdar Committee had recommended that there was a need to spend Rs. 13,700 crores annually on primary education and literacy programmes;

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

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to spend the money for primary education and literacy in the country as per the recommendations of that Committee, and if so, the details thereof?

Educational Institutions under UGC

†4408. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that all the educational institutions in the country are registered under University Grants Commission's Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the number of institutions which were registered all over the country by the end of December, 2002; and

(c) what was the maximum capacity of imparting vocational education, technical education, medical education, engineering education and general education in these institutions?

Regulation of Foreign Institutions

4409. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proliferation of foreign universities operating in India offering diploma, graduate and post-graduate courses in engineering and technology;

(b) if so, whether Government feel to enforce regulations on such universities through a competent regulatory body; and

(c) if so, what measures Government contemplate to initiate in this regard?

Revamping higher education

4410. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revamp higher education with flexibility to combine various subjects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to improve

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

quality of programmes in each subject?

100 per cent Literacy

4411. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the percentage of literate persons in the country; and

(b) details of steps Government have taken or propose to take for increasing the literate person up to 100 per cent in the future?

Free Internet access to students/ teachers

4412. MISS MABEL REBELLO: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether UGC has promised free internet access to students and teachers in universities across the country as appeared in the media;

(b) if so, what other gifts UGC will offer to the students and teachers; and

(c) the number of universities and colleges that would be connected to the internet and details of information that can be accessed?

Objectives of operation Black Board

4413. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives of the Operation Black Board Scheme;

(b) the amount of allocation made to various States for implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme during the last

three years;

(c) whether State-wise review has been made on the implementation of the Operation Black Board Programme; and

(d) if so, the achievements made under that scheme in each State during the last three years?

Expenditure on primary education in J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal

4414. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any specific Centrally Sponsored Programme for imparting elementary education to the children in the age group 6-14 of gujars and other living in the hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, who move to the plains with their animals and families with the onset of winter and move back to their homes as the summer approaches; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the expenditure incurred thereon during the Ninth Five Year Plan period and that proposed for the Tenth Five Plan period?

Review of current education policy

4415. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 65 per cent of the people who receive primary education in rural areas cannot read or write properly;

(b) whether due to this Government think of reviewing the current education policy;

(c) if so, the details on which Government plan to act upon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

IIT at Basara

4416. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish an IIT at Basara, Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, when it will be established; and

(c) if not, whether Government will consider the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to establish it at Basara?

Beneficiaries under ICDS

4417. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries under Integrated Child Development Scheme, during the last five years; year-wise and State-wise;

(b) amount that has been released during the last five years; year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the National Family Health Services have shown that the scheme is not Penetrating as expected to the beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, the comments of the Ministry?

Education perspective for Open Schooling

4418. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Conference on Enterprising Community through "Education: Perspective for Open Schooling" was recently held at New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details of deliberations taken at the meet?

Funding pattern for Universities

4419. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.G.C. has come-up with a new proposal on the Funding Pattern for Universities of State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government would propose some changes in the Funding Pattern of Union Government for Universities under U.G.C. and State Governments?

Task Force on participation of women in higher education

†4420. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a task force in view of the fact that the participation of women in higher education sector is very low and specific measures are required to be taken therefor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the Task Force is likely to be constituted; and

(d) by when Task Force will submit its report in this regard?

New Kendriya Vidyalayas

421. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: SHRI LALIT SURI:

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

(a) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the country, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry propose to open more Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of the proposed Kendriya Vidyalayas to be opened in the country, State-wise?

Allocation for school buildings

4422. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amount allocated for construction of buildings for primary schools in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the details of amount spent so far on each school in the country during this period?

Ban on sale of fast food in KVs etc.

†4423. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering or would like to consider to impose a total ban on the sale of fast food and cold drinks in the canteens of all Kendriya Vidyalayas and all colleges and other educational institutes run by Centre on the basis of a research study report by AIIMS; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and Government's point of view on the said research report by AIIMS and action Government would like to take thereon?

Juvenile Justice Act

4424. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NGO's of the capital have alleged that the existing provisions of Juvenile Justice Act are not being fully implemented and have demanded that Government should frame adequate laws to deal with child sex abuse;

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

(c) whether a report by National Human Rights Commission and the Law Commission to deal with cases of child sex abuse has since been received by Government; and

(d) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government as also to coordinate between the police, judiciary and medical authorities in dealing with such cases?

Introduction of I.T. in school level education

4425. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the Information Technology has been introduced in different States in the school level education;

(b) whether Government are aware that many of the economically backward States cannot afford to run IT education in schools on account of financial difficulties; and

(c) if so, what type of help Government are going to extend to the States in this respect?

Affiliation of IT colleges

4426. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have any proposal to affiliate colleges and institutes that cater exclusively to Information Technology and Communication equal to IITs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether government would plan to implement such a proposal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

(c) whether Government have any mechanism in place to check the quality of education offered by them;

(d) if so, whether Government have carried out any survey in this regard and if so, the results thereof; and

(e) if answer to part (c) is in the negative, the reasons therefor and steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Delay in the publication of the series
"Towards Freedom"**

4427. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report "Fate of 'Towards Freedom' Project" hangs in the balance as appeared in the media;

(b) if so, whether the review Committee informed the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) of their reluctance to submit a report based on incomplete documents; and

(c) if so, the action taken in detail to avoid further delay in the publication of the series "Towards Freedom"?

**Standard of foreign institutions giving
education in India**

4428. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of foreign Universities/Professionalised Institutes which have entered India through the globalisation route to spread education have very poor standing in their own country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

**Degree of Master of Business
Management by Private Institutes**

4429. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted any private Institute to confer the degree of Master of Business Management;

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

(c) if not, whether it has come to Government's notice that some privately managed and unrecognised Business Management Institutes are trying to draw the students by making claim to this effect; and

(d) if so, steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Nomination/election of students to the
University Senates/Syndicates**

4430. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that election component in number of University Senates and Syndicates including Central Universities is completely removed;

(b) what efforts, the UGC is making in restoring the democratic governance of Universities;

(c) which are the Universities where the students are elected to the University Senate and Syndicates; and

(d) which are the Universities where the students are nominated to the University Senates and Syndicates?

Additional divisions in KV

4431. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms followed by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to allow additional divisions in the schools;

(b) whether it is a fact that the request for allotment of new divisions in the Kerala Zone have been denied;

(c) how many divisions for 2003-04 have been sanctioned separately in Kerala and Tamil Nadu;

(d) the ratio of students' strength in Tamil Nadu and Kerala; and

(e) whether Government will consider to allow new divisions in the Kerala Zone?

Self-learning package

4432. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCERT has formulated any self learning package on Inclusive Education;

(b) what are the salient features of the package; and

(c) when will it be made available to the States?

Complaints against rape cases

4433. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA
CHATTERJEE:

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

(a) the number of complaints of rape during the last three years in each state and action taken against such complaints;

(b) the number of culprits arrested year-wise in each State; and

(c) the number of cases filed in each State and the number of cases withdrawn in the absence of victims?

Missing girls in the country

4434. SHRI PRASANTA
CHATTERJEE:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

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

(a) the number of grown-up girls missing in each State during the last three years; and

(b) the number of missing girls located during the same period, State-wise?

**Fee structure of Private Engineering/
Medical/Management Colleges**

4435. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to appoint a Commission to decide on the fee structure for all private engineering, medical and management colleges and also for holding a common All-India Engineering Entrance Examination; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including guidelines finalised, if any, to ensure autonomy to private institutions in these matters as directed by the Supreme Court in their recent judgement on the subject?

**New text books on social sciences and
history**

4436. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Delhi and several schools have announced that they will not introduce new text books on social sciences and history brought out by NCERT due to their sub-standard quality and sectarian outlook;

(b) whether in spite of these objections Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to introduce them; and

(c) if so, when and for which year did the CBSE take such a decision?

**All India Council for Physical
Education**

4437. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set

up an All India Council for Physical Education to look after the work of physical education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof *inter alia* stating its composition, functions and its contributions in promoting physical education in the country; and

(c) by when, the Council will start functioning?

Vacant posts in NCERT

4438. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of posts are lying vacant in the NCERT, Delhi for a long time;

(b) if so, the category-wise details of such posts and the dates from which these posts are lying vacant; and

(c) the reasons for delay in filling up these posts and steps being taken to fill them up?

Recognition to Sanskrit

4439. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

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

(a) whether Government have any plan to give more recognition to Sanskrit in Government and private run schools and colleges in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government intend to change the curriculum to make the subject more interesting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Review of Pay Scales

4440. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rastogi Committee Report to Review the Pay Scales of University and College Teachers have recommended NET exemption for Ph.Ds to be qualified as Lecturers in Universities and Colleges; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not accepting this recommendation?

Another station at Antarctica

4441. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of stations set up by India in Antarctica;

(b) the programmes being researched at those stations; and

(c) the future plan for setting up another station?

Railway projects in Iraq

4442. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) details of the ongoing railway projects in Iraq where Indian Railways or any of its agency is involved, project-wise;

(b) fate of these projects since Coalition forces attacked Iraq; and

(c) whether there has been any change in the contracts of rules since the attack?

Limited stoppages of Shatabdi and Rajdhani express trains

4443. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Shatabdi and Rajdhani express trains have been introduced over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that short distance passengers have to undergo a lot of difficulties because of their limited stoppage; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to shun away their difficulties?

Export of cow meat

†4444. SHRI B. P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a train full of cow meat is sent every day or on alternate day to Mumbai for export from Tuglakabad, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the said train is fully air conditioned and its doors remain closed completely?

Darbhanga-Muzaffarpur rail line

†4445. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the then Minister of Railways has ordered to conduct survey for the construction of Darbhanga-Laheria sarai-Muzaffarpur rail line in 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome of the survey and what action has been taken by Government on that;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether present 110 k.m. distance of Darbhanga Samastipur-Muzaffarpur rail line will be reduced to 49 k.m. only as a result of constructing of new rail line which would save time and money; and

(d) if so, the details of plan of Government to construct this line?

Extension of rail lines in North-Eastern States

4446. SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared perspective plans to extend railways into the North-Eastern States of Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the scope and time-frame of such plans; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not extending rail linkages into these States?

Allotment to NF Railway for safety measures

4447. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 85.8 crores has been allotted to North Frontier Railway for special railway safety measures; and

(b) if so, details of action taken by the N.F. Railway to improve the old track, bridges, track circuiting and signalling etc.?

Rail line to Meghalaya

4448. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway line is likely to be extended to Meghalaya in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that construction of railway line between Dadnoi and Depa in Meghalaya was sanctioned in 1992-93; and

(d) if so, when the project is likely to take off and what will be its completion time alongwith the details thereof?

Katra rail project

4449. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of Katra Rail Project; and

(b) by when the railway line for Katra will be completed?

Disabled friendly trains

4450. DR. AKHILESH DAS: SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while 75 per cent concession in railway fares is given to thalasemia patients and 50 per cent to cancer, heart and kidney patients seeking treatment in well known centres; no concessions or facilities like disabled friendly trains and platforms as per disability act of 1995 have been granted to the disabled; and

(b) if so, the reasons for ignoring the disabled by the railways?

Stepping up security

4451. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Centre has asked States to step up security in all violence prone areas to ensure safety to rail passengers;

(b) what steps are being taken to modernise signalling equipment, overhaul old railway tracks and training to concerned personnel to eliminate risk of human failure; and

(c) what are other details in this regard?

Railway racks for Karnataka

4452. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways was approached by Government of Karnataka to provide sufficient railway racks for movement (export) of 2 lakhs tons of Maize to Bangladesh from Ranibennur and Haveri of Karnataka; and

(b) by when the Railway racks will be provided to that State?

Stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Raichur

4453. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move to cancel the present stop over of Rajdhani Express at Raichur;

(b) whether Railways are aware that such a proposal, if any, would cause a lot of inconvenience to the commuters of Raichur; and

(c) whether Railways would drop the proposal in the interest of commuters from Raichur?

Jammu-Udhampur rail link

4454. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jammu-

Udhampur Rail link could not be completed so far, if so; the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the status of the projects for laying of railway line between Udhampur and Qazigund and Udhampur-Baramula; and

(c) what is the mode of funding for these projects, section-wise?

Modernisation of stations in Gujarat

†4455. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the conditions of railway stations becoming worse due to over crowding at number of large stations of Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make modernisation of large and small railway stations of Gujarat;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Missing employees of Ajitwal Station

†4456. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many employees of Ajitwal Railway Station, F Z R Division, Northern Railway are missing since 15th August, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after passing of so many years and according to police report also the families of said employees are not being given their dues, pension and other facilities; and if so, name-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to pay pension and other dues at the earliest to the dependents of all such employees and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) by when the dues are likely to be paid?

Transfer Policy in Railways

†4457. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy regarding transfer of officers and employees working in various offices of Railway Board;

(b) if so, the details of this policy and the maximum number of days for which a person can continuously work in the same Department under this policy;

(c) whether a number of persons are working in above Offices and Departments by overlooking this policy; and

(d) if so, the names of such persons?

Decrease in Goods transportation through Railways

†4458. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment of decrease in rail freight and passenger traffic due to construction of super express highway has been made;

(b) if so, the strategy of Railways to deal with it and if not, the reasons for not formulating any strategy; and

(c) the goods had earlier also been transported through roads instead of rail, the extent of loss to be suffered by Railways now due to better roads and vehicles, speedily transporting goods and passengers?

Action on payment of dues and compassionate appointment

†4459. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by Government till January, 2003 from Members of Parliament for making payments of dues and giving appointment on compassionate grounds to the dependents of the deceased/disappeared employees of Northern Railway;

(b) the action taken by Government on all such applications so that proper benefits can be availed by the dependents; and

(c) the reasons for delay?

Transportation of foodgrains to Karnataka

4460. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wagons required to transport foodgrains under various schemes of Government to different parts of Karnataka;

(b) how many wagons have, so far, been despatched; and

(c) whether railway would despatch more wagons to expedite transportation of foodgrains in Northern Karnataka districts which are facing severe drought?

Fast train between Amritsar and Chandigarh

4461. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to introduce the fast train to link Amritsar-

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Chandigarh and whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Transfer of employees

4462. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the formation of East Central Railway-headquartered at Hajipur-a number of Eastern Railways employees were transferred;

(b) if so, furnish the number of vacancies in Eastern Railway in the wake of above mentioned transfers; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to fill those posts; if so, the details thereof?

Shortage of goods train

†4463. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of goods trains is causing difficulty in the carriage of goods;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to solve the problem; and

(c) the details of special efforts being made by Government to increase the participation of railways in goods carriage?

Jan Shatabdi passing through various States

†4464. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Jan Shatabdi Express trains introduced recently alongwith their routes;

(b) the number of Jan Shatabdi trains out of these which are running in profit and the number of those running in loss and the position of the Jan Shatabdi trains running in or passing through Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh; and

(c) whether Stopping the operation of some Jan Shatabdi trains is under consideration; if so, the details thereof?

Projects in Jharkhand

†4465. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2191 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd March, 2002 and state:

(a) the details of new projects to be undertaken in Jharkhand during the Tenth Five Year Plan togetherwith the amount to be spent thereon; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to complete these projects as per schedule?

Completion of project in Rajasthan

4466. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 446 given in Rajya Sabha on 22nd November, 2002 and state:

(a) when the project-wise construction work of gauge conversion commenced in Rajasthan;

(b) what is the present status of these projects;

(c) the reasons for the delay in completion of these projects, project-wise; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the probable dates by which these projects are likely to be completed?

Tracks/stations vulnerable to terrorists attack

4467. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified some railway tracks/stations, in consultation with State Governments concerned, as vulnerable to terrorists attack; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Funds for new rail line and gauge conversion

4468. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many projects of new rail line and gauge conversion that were sanctioned by the Railways are lying incomplete due to insufficient funds;

(b) if so, how many projects in all are lying incomplete and the cost involved in completing these projects;

(c) whether Government intend to release the required amount with a hike in expenditure; and

(d) by when the funds would be provided for the said projects?

Employment/Development through Special Purpose Vehicle

4469. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:
SHRI K. B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be

pleased to state:

(a) how much employment would be generated through Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV);

(b) its impact on all round development;

(c) stations proposed to be covered in Orissa in these rail links;

(d) whether Special Purpose Vehicle would be funded by bonds issued if any, on the lines of Konkan Railway Development Bond; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Compensation for lost luggage/goods

4470. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are responsible for luggage loss or theft of luggages on trains;

(b) if so, the details of procedure devised for claiming the loss of luggage in the custody of passengers and goods booked with the Railways; and

(c) the compensation paid by the Railways on this account during the last one year?

Extension of rail lines in Uttaranchal

4471. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of Railways for extension of railway lines in Uttaranchal State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work for new rail lines is to be taken up?

Demand of wagons

4472. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Railway is unable to meet the demand of wagons required by onion, lime stone, cement, salt associations etc. in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken to meet the demand adequately in future?

Revised jurisdiction of Railway Zones

4473. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Ministry has revised jurisdiction of 23 railway zones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Railways have fixed the jurisdiction of 8 newly created railway divisions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Madurai-Rameshwaram Broad Gauge Project

4474. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Madurai-Rameshwaram Broad Gauge Project;

(b) the details of the amount spent so far and funds allocated during the current financial year;

(c) by when, the project is likely to be completed; and

(d) the action taken to complete the said project within the scheduled time-frame?

Stoppage of Shatabdi Express at Chandigarh

4475. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main passenger traffic in Shatabdi Express trains is being dealt with at Chandigarh Railway Station;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the stoppage timings of the above trains are reduced from 22 minutes to 8 minutes only which is causing hardship to the passengers; and

(c) if answer to (a) and (b) is affirmative, what are the detailed reasons therefor?

Free travel in Railways

4476. DR. P. C. ALEXANDER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the categories and the number of people under each category who are allowed free travel on Railways;

(b) the annual loss incurred by the Railways on this account; and

(c) whether Railways propose to reduce the number of people being allowed free travel in order to improve the revenues of the Railways?

Gauge conversion of Dahej-Bharuch line

4477. DR. A. K. PATEL:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that

Dahej is a fast developing major chemical estate and a new LNG Terminal along with solid cargo handling facilities is under development;

(b) if so, whether railways are considering for conversion of 64 km. narrow gauge railway line connecting Dahej with Bharuch which is nearest Broad Gauge rail head; and

(c) when the decision will be taken?

Rail link in Madhya Pradesh

4478. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the districts in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh which have no rail links;

(b) the rail lines for which the proposals have been made and the progress thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to start work on Indore-Dohad, Indore-Manmad and Lalit Pur-Singroli rail lines, if so, by when; and

(d) the details of the funds earmarked for the purposes?

Electrification of rail routes

4479. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of electrified rail routes in the country, State-wise;

(b) the targets fixed/achieved for electrification of rail track during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the targets fixed for electrification, State-wise;

(d) the time by which the pending work of electrification of the rail tracks is likely to be completed, project-wise; and

(e) the target set for electrification of rail lines during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

Maintenance of A.C. coaches

4480. SHRI S. S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the maintenance of air-conditioned coaches in the trains, especially South bound trains, are poor;

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

(c) whether it is due to short supply of spare parts/accessories; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken to improve the maintenance of air-conditioned coaches?

Procedure for awarding bookstalls

4481. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure adopted for awarding bookstalls at Railway Stations;

(b) whether Government propose to change the guidelines in this respect to include more categories of persons to be considered for the purpose;

(c) whether Government have discretionary powers to award such contracts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Checking and testing facilities for imported genetically modified food or crops at scientific institutes

4482. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

are not well equipped to detect or make risk assessment of genetically modified food or crops that may have been clandestinely imported within the country due to non-availability of data;

(b) whether the funds sanctioned for the upgradation of checking and testing facilities at various scientific institutes was not adequate to meet the current requirement of the Ministry; and

(c) if so, what are the facts of the case and the action taken to protect the health of our citizens from this problem?

Assistance to Institute of Advanced Study in Science & Technology, Guwahati

4483. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received a proposal during 2001 for fully funding the Institute of Advanced Study in Science & Technology, Guwahati; and

(b) if so, the status thereof?

Lowering the production cost of steel

†4484. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of production of steel in India is higher as

compared to that of in other steel producing countries;

(b) if so, the countries where the cost of production of steel is lower than the cost of production of steel in India;

(c) whether there are possibilities of lowering the cost of production of steel in India; and

(d) if so, the steps to be taken in this regard?

Sports facilities in schools/colleges

4485. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sports facilities including swimming pools are not available for students in all the Government schools of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

Athletic tracks in Punjab

4486. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct sports/athletic tracks in Punjab;

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

(c) the details of financial allocation made therefor?

NEW DELHI;
The 26th April, 2003
Vaisakha 6, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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