RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on Friday, the August 2, 2002/Sravana 11, 1924 (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

Crop loss due to Monsoon failure

1761. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the dry spell in Northern India sparks fears of drought;
- (b) whether Government are aware that Kharif crops like maize, groundnut, and a few varieties of Bajra can not be sown, if there are no rains resulting in crop losses to the tune of Rs. 1200 crores; and
- (c) if so, how Government propose to meet the situation?

Projects to forecast crop production

1762. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the status of Government's project of forecasting crop production through satellite studies and land-based observations, FASAL;
- (b) the reasons for the delay in the take

- (c) by when these projects would really take off; and
- (d) how the project would help the small and marginal farmers?

Replacing vessels of Fisheries Survey of India

- †1763. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the total number of vessels available with Fisheries Survey of India and the details of amount spent on their repairs during the last three years, year-wise;
- (b) whether Government propose to declare these vessels as unusable and to purchase new vessels in their place;
- (c) if so, by when new vessels are likely to be purchased; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Exploitation of water resources

- †1764. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
 - (a) whether it is a fact that as a result of

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

indiscriminate exploitation of water resources and lack of water conservation in 90 villages of plateau area of Malwa, including Devas district in Madhya Pradesh, a severe drought situation is prevailing there and as a consequence, eighty thousand adivasis are suffering;

- (b) whether such kind of crises are developing in other areas of country due to indiscriminate exploitation of water resources; and
- (c) if so, the measures taken to resolve such water crises and future scheme formulated?

MSP of arecanut

1765. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that are canut farmers in Karnataka are saddled with huge unsold stocks of the crop due to steep fall in prices;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is no market intervention by Central agencies like NAFED in that State;
- (c) whether Karnataka Government concerned with the plight of farmers, have proposed to the Centre for procurement of arecanut at a minimum support price of Rs. 65/- per kg; and
- (d) whether Government have considered the request favourable; if so, the amount per kg. of arecanut fixed by Government?

Remunerative price for cotton growers

1766. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cotton growers of various States, including Gujarat are not getting remunerative price for their crop and a large number of farmers are reported to have committed suicide;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases during the last two years; and
- (c) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

Subsidy to M.P. for Kharif crops

- †1767. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether drought affected areas in Madhya Pradesh have been determined on the basis of anawari of kharif crops as per the scarcity manual; if so, whether rabi crops have also been affected in other districts due to decrease in the area cultivation of rabi crop, low rain fall and non-availability of water on time;
- (b) whether Government are formulating any scheme to provide benefit of input subsidy and other grant-in-aid to the State for the affected areas of rabi crop, besides drought affected areas; and
- (c) if so, by when, the input subsidy would be provided to the State?

Insurance claims of farmers in Andhra Pradesh

1768. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that insurance claims of more than 8,000 farmers from Adilabad District of Andhra Pradesh, for damage to cotton crop, have not been settled;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the delay in settling their claims; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) what steps are being taken to settle their claims, at the earliest?

Rules and regulations for Agriculture and FPI

- 1769. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that as per a recent report, the Agriculture and Food Processing Industry had enormous potential but its growth is constrained by a plethora of rules and regulations;
- (b) whether there is an urgent need to review these laws and introduce reforms to enable the industry to feel secure and grow to the full extent of its potential; and
- (c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

Growth of agriculture sector

- 1770. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government recorded a high growth of agriculture in 2001-2002;
- (b) if so, to what extent it was more in comparison to that in 2000-2001;
- (c) whether it is likely to improve further in 2002-2003;
 - (d) if so, to what extent; and
- (e) what are the total foodgrains stocked at present in the country?

Gene banks for foodgrain plants

†1771. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the International Institute of Plant Genetics have jointly set up gene bank to save and redevelop the foodgrain plants of rare species facing extinction;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government are also formulating any scheme for creating awareness among farmers of the country, to protect such plants;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether Government propose to award special package or give encouragement to farmers, for re-developing such type of species?

Gujarat proposals for Animal Husbandry and Horticulture Development

- 1772. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the proposals for animal husbandry and horticulture development of Gujarat pending for financial assistance;
- (b) since when they have been pending and the reasons therefor;
- (c) by when they are likely to be cleared; and
- (d) the funds allocated under these schemes during the last three years for Gujarat particularly for the Saurashtra and Kutch regions?

MSPs for agricultural products

- †1773. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
 - (a) the details of Minimum Support Price

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

fixed for all the agricultural products and the foodgrains, during the last three years; and

(b) the details of crops whose prices fell below their Minimum Support Price during the same period?

Procurement of farmers' produce at village level

- †1774. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there is any plan to procure the produce of farmers by Government, at their villages, on rates fixed by Government; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

Groundwater imbalance in Punjab

- 1775. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Ministry of Agriculture or any other agency has conducted a study in Punjab, which shows that the State is heading towards ecological disaster and may turn into desert;
- (b) if so, the salient features of the study report; and
- (c) the reasons for the fall in the water level in rural areas and the measures for correcting the ground water imbalance in the State?

Joining UPOV

1776. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI KAILASH JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred

- Question 313, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th July, 2002 and state:
- (a) whether Government's decision to join UPOV would nullify the Plant Varieties Protection and Farmers' Rights Act, passed by the Parliament recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction in this regard; and
- (c) what steps Government propose to take to protect the interests of farmers under the Act?

Horticulture development in Uttaranchal

- †1777. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4663, given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th May, 2002 and state:
- (a) which is the agency designated in Uttaranchal under the Central Sector Scheme on Integrated Development of Horticulture in Tribal/Hilly areas and the number of beneficiaries of the amount of Rs. 178.80 lakh granted under that scheme; and
- (b) the amount proposed under this scheme for Uttaranchal during 2002-2003 and the number of persons likely to be benefited from the same?

Import of breedable animals by A.P.

- 1778. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Government has imported some animals from Australia for improving the quality of breedable animals and the animals are stranded at quarantine station in Chennai;
 - (b) whether it is also a fact that the

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Ministry of Agriculture has not given its clearance to release the animals to Andhra Pradesh Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in giving permission?

Starvation in Orissa

†1779. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that whole of the Orissa is passing through a phase of frightening starvation and the benefit of none of the schemes, run by Government, has reached the people; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

Increasing the poultry production

1780. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any plan to double poultry production in the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government are extending financial assistance to young entrepreneurs in helping setting up poultry units;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether financial assistance is being given to States, particularly Andhra Pradesh, in development of poultry industry, including poultry processing; and
 - (f) if so, the details thereof?

Making agriculture economically viable

1781. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an overall decline in investment for development of agricultural infrastructure more particularly in the irrigation system, throughout the country;
- (b) whether this is on account of lack of adequate economic returns from agriculture;
- (c) if so, what concrete steps Government have taken to promote agriculture as a commercially viable and economically rewarding activity considering that a healthy agricultural sector is a necessary condition in the face of nation's food scarcity and for self reliance in food; and
- (d) whether there is a proposal to encourage foreign investments in agriculture; if so, whether any special safeguards are proposed?

Drought proof rice variety

1782. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the scientists have initiated the process on drought-proof rice variety;
- (b) if so, whether the University of Hyderabad in association with the US-based Rockfeller Foundation, has initiated the process of elucidating drought-tolerant rice varieties, using molecular and genomic technologies;
- (c) whether the research project is part of the National Rice Network Programme of ICAR;
- (d) if so, to what extent the research has been found successful; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) to what extent it would be helpful to the farmers?

Integrated Dairy Development in A.P.

- 1783. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the present Status of Integrated Dairy Development Project in Andhra Pradesh: and
- (b) what has been the achievement of the project in that State, so far?

ICAR Centres in NER

- 1784. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of ICAR Centres/ branches opened in the North Eastern States;
 - (b) their activities and achievements; and
- (c) the benefits being made available to the local population by them?

Wheat and paddy production

1785. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether production of paddy and wheat in India recorded a decline in 2000-2001, compared to 1999-2000;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the remedial steps proposed to improve the yield; and
- (d) the production of wheat and rice during 2001-2002?

Supply of DMS milk in Delhi

1786. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

- (a) whether it is a fact that supply of DMS milk in the capital has been reduced during the last two years;
- (b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;
- (c) what steps are proposed to be taken to augment the sale of DMS milk?

Pulse production in Andhra Pradesh

- 1787. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) how far the National Pulse Development Programme has succeeded in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (b) what was the production of pulses in the State during the last three years, yearwise, and how it compares with other States of the country?

Karnataka request for MSPs of agricultural products

1788. SHRI M.V. RAJASHEKHARAN: SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased the minimum support price for wheat by Rs. 10/-;
- (b) whether Government have received any request from Karnataka Government to increase MSP on Copra, Toor dal, Ragi and Maize: and
- (c) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

Contribution of agriculture towards GDP

1789. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the percentage contribution of agriculture sector towards Gross Domestic Product of the country has decreased:
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) what action is being taken by Government to arrest this trend?

National Seed Board

- 1790. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to set up national Seed Board;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government also propose to make it mandatory for seed companies to go through trials in ICAR approved labs;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Agricultural policy for NER

- 1791. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the farmers who attended a two-day seminar in Guwahati on 14th June, 2002, had demanded the Central Government to formulate a special agriculture policy for the North-East, giving due stress to the resources in the region and the rich prospects for horticulture there; and
- (b) if so, what decision has been taken to modify the agriculture policy or to lay down a special agricultural policy for the North-Eastern Region in the light thereof?

Rice to Andhra Pradesh

- 1792. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government released five lakh tonnes of additional rice under Sampoorna Grameena Samruddhi Yojana (SGSY) for Andhra Pradesh in June, 2002; and
- (b) if so, the details of rice released for distribution to Andhra Pradesh since August, 2001, under the Food for Work and Sampoorna Grameena Samruddhi Yojana and the demand made by the State Government?

Food for Work scheme in Andhra Pradesh

- 1793. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the central team which toured Andhra Pradesh in May, 2002 recommended continuation of Food for Work scheme in the State;
- (b) if so, the main recommendations of the team; and
- (c) the action taken to implement the scheme more vigorously for drought prone districts of Andhra Pradesh?

Independent agricultural insurance company

- 1794. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government plan to set up an independent agricultural insurance company to provide insurance cover exclusively for the agriculture related issues across the country;

- (b) if so, whether nearly 19 States, including Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat have agreed to participate in the agri insurance company;
- (c) whether the above three States have registered one of the highest crop failures in the country; and
- (d) if so, to what extent this insurance company would help farmers in the agriculture related issues?

Lifting of ban on Endosulfan by Kerala

1795. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that the ban imposed on 'Endosulfan' pesticide which could cause severe healthy problems, has been lifted by Kerala Government;
- (b) whether Government would consider to institute an enquiry in the matter and arrange to impose the ban on 'Endosulfan' pesticide;
- (c) whether Government would consider to depute a central team to study the adverse effect of pesticide including environment problems, in Kerala; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Impact of the new fertilizer policy

1796. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Fertilizer Industry has refuted Government's contention that it stands to gain Rs. 312 crore from the 7th and 8th pricing policy, which was recently approved by the cabinet;
- (b) whether according to the industry sources, the fertilizer industry is all set to

- make a loss of Rs. 2,875 crore, because of these pricing policies; and
- (c) if so, what would be the impact of the new policy and the industry as a whole?

Fertilizer Industry development fund

- 1797. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Group of Ministers headed by Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, has submitted any report to Government on the proposed decontrol in pricing, movement and distribution of Urea by April 1, 2006;
- (b) whether Government purpose to set up any Fertilizer Industry Development Fund to help the Corporate who might be adversely affected by retention pricing scheme:
 - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) what steps Government propose to take to help the Urea industry in the country?

Over-realisation of prices under DPCO

- 1798. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the MNC's and domestic drug makers owe Government a staggering Rs. 330 crore on account of estimated overrealisation of prices under the Drug Prices Equalisation Account;
- (b) whether the drug companies had manipulated huge margins from 1979 to 1987, by way of using low-priced-import inputs, which violates Government policy of obligatory use of indigenous raw materials; and
 - (c) whether the drug companies have

managed to secure a stay from courts against Government demand; if so, whether Government would proceed to move the Apex Court for vacation of the stay enmasse?

Impact of dismantling of APM in energy sector on fertilizer industry

1799. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he has called upon the fertilizers industry to gear up to meet the challenges posed by dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism in the energy marketing sector;
- (b) if so, whether Government have seen examining the need to decontrol urea marketing:
- (c) whether fertilizer industry has been urged to work out its strategy in a manner that it gets feedstock at import-parity prices;
 and
- (d) if so, to what extent the industry has geared up to meet the challenges posed by dismantling of the administered pricing mechanism in the energy marketing sector?

Testing of pro-biotic fertilizer

1800. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Council for Agricultural Research has completed the testing of organic fertilizer known as "Probiotic" fertilizer;
 - (b) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (c) if not, by when the test would be completed?

Closure of Sindri Unit of FCI

- 1801. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Sindri unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India has been shut down since 16th March, 2002;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
 - (c) whether the plant has been restarted;
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the present status of revival plan of Sindri and other units of FCI at Ramgundam, Talcher and Gorakhpur?

Changes in fertilizer retention price scheme

1802. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fertilizer companies are expected to payback over Rs. 1,800 crore as a result of Government's decision to introduce changes in the retention price scheme;
- (b) if so, whether this would be in addition to Rs. 1,374 crore already recovered by the Union Government; and
- (c) if so, to what extent the Government would help to bring end to the uncertainty and enable the industry to take appropriate decision under a stable policy environment?

Bifurcation of fertilizer units for subsidy

†1803. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether Government are considering

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- a scheme to provide subsidy to the decontrolled chemical-fertilizer production units, by bifurcating them;
- (b) if so, the names of the production units that would be included in the said bifurcation:
- (c) the present production capacity of the units under the proposed bifurcation at present; and
 - (d) the proposed rate of subsidy?

Transportation of fertilizers in Himachal Pradesh

- 1804. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have received any request from Himachal Pradesh Government to consider the provision for transportation of fertilizers to the State on the pattern of North Eastern States and J & K; and
- (b) if so, what are the details thereof, to the action Government propose to take in the matter and by when?

Rise in prices of medicines

- 1805. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the price of medicines had seen an average increase of 15.62 per cent per annum during the last six years;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the clear policies and guidelines proposed, to check price hike in pharma sector?

Sale of holdings in Hindustan Antibiotics

1806. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to sell 100 per cent holdings in the Hindustan Antibiotics;
- (b) if so, the amount with interest this enterprise owed to different banks as on 31st March, 2002; and
- (c) the details of efforts made during last three years to bring about improvement in the working of this enterprises?

Ban on use of Endosulfan

1807. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that continuous use of Endosulfan pesticide, causes severe damage to living organisms in the surroundings areas;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain its effect on environment and on human life;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether many developed countries have banned/restricted the use of this pesticide;
- (e) whether Kerala Government has also requested to ban it;
- (f) if so, whether any ban/restriction has been imposed on its use in the country;and
- (g) if not, whether Government would consider to ban its use?

Environmental clearance for Power Project in Gujarat

- 1808. DR.A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether any proposal for power project in Gujarat is pending for environmental clearance with Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and since when it has been pending;
- (c) the reasons for the pendency thereof; and
- (d) by when the proposal is likely to be cleared by Government?

Meeting of State Environment Secretaries

- 1809. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that at the two day meetings of the State Environment Secretaries and Pollution Control Board officials some fundamental issues relating to pollution in big cities were discussed;
- (b) if so, the details of the deliberations and the conclusions reached; and
- (c) the details of time-bound plan of action drawn up, if any, with monitoring mechanism established therefor, to clean up the polluted cities, especially the metros and other major cities?

Action taken reports on pollution

- 1810. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have asked for detailed Reports from State Governments about the action taken to clean up the air of

- critically polluted cities as reported in the Pioneer' dated 10th July, 2002;
- (b) if so, the details of reports submitted by State Governments;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court orders to clean up the air pollution have been ignored by State Governments;
 - (d) if so,the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the details of further steps Government propose to take in this regard?

WWF for wildlife seizure

- 1811. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 6th July, 2002, captioned WWF red tape spells end for Wildlife seizure project;
- (b) if so, whether Government's reaction in this regard;
- (c) whether Government would review and give life to the programme of WWF-Traffic India which had the biggest wildlife trade seizures in the 90s; and
- (d) if so, the efforts made by Government so far in this regard?

Wildlife sanctuaries in Rajasthan

1812. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: DR. ABRAR AHMED:

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

- (a) whether Government plan to declare new areas in Rajasthan as wildlife sanctuaries and protected forests;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the same is being proposed by Government for other States as well; and

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

Task force report on forest cover

- 1813. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the report of the Task force constituted by the Planning Commission to enhance forest cover has been processed by Government;
- (b) if so, the details of its recommendations; and
- (c) how far its recommendations have been accepted by Government?

Food for lions

- 1814. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether sterilization of lions has been suggested to contain their population in view of resource crunch;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance out of the funds allocated for The Lion Project to provide food for lions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Death of leopards in Uttaranchal

- 1815. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that six leopards died in various parts of Uttaranchal in the last one and a half years;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

- (c) whether it is also a fact that wildlife is falling prey to hunger in the State; and
- (d) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary as Project Tiger Reserve

- 1816. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Orissa Government has submitted a detailed proposal for inclusion of Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary as a Project Tiger Reserve;
- (b) if so, the progress in the matter, so far; and
- (c) by when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

Wildlife projects in Rajasthan

1817. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI R.K. ANAND:

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

- (a) whether any special schemes or projects have been introduced to protect the forest reserves of Rajasthan;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any new projects, to protect the Wildlife have been introduced apart from the old projects; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Effect of Ozone depleting substances

- 1818. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
 - (a) whether any study has been

conducted in regard to the effect of Ozone depleting substance like Chloro Fluorocarbons on the Ozone layer;

- (b) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (c)the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to protect the Ozone layer from indiscriminate use of Ozone depleting substance?

Dependence of rural life on forests

- †1819. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that most of the needs of rural life are met from forests;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that works relating to construction of dams, roads and laying of electric lines in States have been hampered due to complexity of provisions of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the compulsion of permission from Government; and
- (c) the number of people who have got temporary lease of agriculture land and by when they would be provided the lease of land-owner?

Financial assistance for Ranthambhor Tiger Project

†1820. DR. ABRAR AHMED: SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

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

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to Ranthambhor Tiger Project by the Central Government, Indian or foreign financial institutions or banks for how many schemes the same was provided and how much amount has been spent out of the said assistance and on which items;

- (b) whether any statistical report has been received in this regard; and
- (c) whether the tiger 'Bhambhu Ram' seen by the former U.S. President Shri Bill Clinton, has been killed and its skin is also included among the skins of wild animals seized by Delhi Police recently?

Protection of forests in Gujarat

- 1821. DR.A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the steps taken by Government to protect the forest land in Gujarat, specially Gir forest:
- (b) whether the loss reduction in wildlife has been reported due to diversion of forest land; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

Funds for maintenance of lakes and rivers

- 1822. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government provided funds for maintenance and beautification of various lakes and rivers including Majuli Island in Assam during the last three years; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made in this regard during the same period?

Status of endangered species

- 1823. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
 - (a) whether Government had directed

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the Zoological Survey of India during 1987 to conduct survey to find out the status of endangered species, as reported in the Hindu dated 12th April, 2002;

- (b) if so, whether ZSI has not made any serious efforts to complete the task, till date;
 - (c) if so,the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the further steps taken by Government to complete the projects?

Tiger Trail to stop poaching

- 1824. PROF. M. SANKARA-LINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that under the Tiger Trail a unique programme, Government have stopped poaching in Periyar Tiger Reserve;
- (b) if so, the details of the programme; and
- (c) whether Government would implement the same in other States also where forest land is in abundance?

Forest land for tribals in Kerala

- 1825. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Kerala Government has submitted any request for distribution of forest land to the tribals;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government would give permission to allot vested forests to the landless tribals in Kerala; and
 - (d) if so,the details thereof?

Environmental clearance to Cement Plants in H.P.

1826. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received any proposal for clearance of Cement Plants at Chamba and Sunder Nagar in Himachal Pradesh; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter?

Laboratory for conservation of endangered species in A.P.

- 1827. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to extend financial assistance to the "Laboratory for conservation of endangered species" in CCMB;
 - (b) if so, the details of the request; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard?

Environmental clearance to Tamil Nadu Projects

- 1828. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of projects received from Tamil Nadu pending with his Ministry for clearance; and

(b) by when those projects would be cleared?

(d) the details of forest lands diverted for irrigation in various States/UTs during the last three years?

Water treatment plant for Pushkar Sarovar

- †1829. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have any project to set up water treatment plants, to treat the water of ponds or lakes;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared any scheme to set up a water treatment plant, so as to treat the highly polluted water in 'Pushkar Sarovar' a famous place of pilgrimage in Ajmer district; and
- (c) if so, by when, the same would be implemented so that millions of devoted people, can take a dip in clean water of the said lake?

Forest land for Upper Tunga Project in Karnataka

- 1830. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted a proposal for diversion of forest land for the purpose of completion of Upper Tunga Project in Shismoga district, which envisages irrigation of 2.34 lakhs acres and relief to over 40,000 families in drought prone areas;
- (b) if so,the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) the criteria adopted for deciding transfer or otherwise of forest land for irrigation and other purposes; and

Conservation of National Oasis

- †1831. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) Whether Government are going to take some effective steps for conservation and development of 'Natural Oasis';
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the measures proposed to be taken by Government to protect this scheme of international importance against the administrative negligence?

Elephant menace

- 1832. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact, that due to elephant menace property worth lakhs of rupees was destroyed and human beings were killed in Karnataka during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details of loss of property humanities and the amount of compensation paid district-wise during the same period;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that living mechanism of compensation is outdated and it is too meagre; and
- (d) what steps Government propose to take to counter the menace of elephants and other wild animals?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Air-pollution in metropolitans

†1833. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government are aware of the increasing air pollution in four metropolitan of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) on which date the study on pollution was conducted and whether Government propose to conduct any new study on pollution; and
- (d) whether any time-bound programme to decrease air pollution has been formulated, if so, the details thereof?

Losses due to soil erosion

1834. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country was suffering heavy losses due to massive soil erosion; and
- (b) if so, the measures proposed to maintain a balance between nature and development, ensuring environmentfriendly growth?

Testing of environmental product

1835. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has a system for testing any forms of environmental products;
 - (b) if so, the details of each of them; and
- (c) the details of progress made by Government in promoting the development

and use of environmentaly sound products and services and new technologies that take into consideration full life cycle impacts?

JBIC of forestry project in Gujarat

1836. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

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

- (a) whether the Gujarat Government has submitted a new forestry development project for funding by the Japan Bank for International Corporation (JBIC);
- (b) if so, the salient features of the project; and
- (c) when Government propose to pose this project to Japan Bank for International Corporation (JBIC).

Demand and supply of fire wood

- †1837. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to formulate any plan to remove the imbalance between the demand and supply of fire wood;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the arrangements being made to remove this imbalance?

Killing of snow-leopards in Padmaja Naidu Himalayah Zoological Park

1838. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN(DURRU): DR. AKHILESH DAS:

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

(a) whether dozens of snow-leopards, Siberian tigers and pandas have died or have

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

been killed in the high altitude Padmaja Naidu Himalayah Zoological Park during the last five years;

- (b) if so, the details regarding death and killing of these endangered species, the main reasons for these deaths and casualties; and
- (c) whether Government have conducted any probe into the causes of mass casualties/ deaths of these animals, if so,the details thereof and the steps taken and being taken in the light of its findings, to preserve and promote these species?

Poaching in Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve

1839. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): DR. AKHILESH DAS:

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

- (a) whether the growing incidence of poaching in the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve poses a serious threat of wiping out endangered species like snow leopard, musk deer and Himalayan Bear;
- (b) if so, the population of these and other endangered species in this and other reserved National Parks, etc., in the country as per the last three census; and
- (c) what effective steps have been and are being taken to protect, preserve and promote these species?

Illegal transportation of turtles

1840. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal transportation of rare and valuable turtles from Ganges and other rivers in North India towards Eastern parts of the country, even to Bangladesh, is going on;

- (b) if so, how many times seizure of turtle consignments have been made during 2001-2002; and
- (c) what steps are being taken by Government against such illegal transport?

Modernisation of food industry

- 1841. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the new USA Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Act, providing security to the US food safety and security strategy, was signed by the US President on June 12, 2002;
- (b) whether country's exports to our food industry is modernized to meet US standards, USA and Western countries would be adversely affected; and
- (c) if so, what are Government's views on this and its likely impact on our exports?

Modernisation of fruit canning factory in Tripura

- 1842. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Tripura Government put forward a proposal in May, 2002 for modernisation of fruit canning factory under Tripura Small Scale Industries Corporation (TSIC) an expenditure of Rs. 50 lacs;
- (b) if so, what amount has been sanctioned and actually handed over to the State Government, so far; and
- (c) whether the whole amount would be paid to the State Government very soon?

Saraswati Sishu Mandir

1843. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) the number of Saraswati Sishu Mandir and Saraswati Vidya Mandir functioning in the country, District-wise, State-wise and the number of students in each of these mandirs (schools);
- (b) whether these institutions are following the CBSE syllabus and are recognised by Government; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

Quota in Central Schools

- †1844. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the quota for nomination in Central Schools for the Minister, Minister of State and Members of Parliament in a year;
- (b) the details of names recommended by the Minister and Minister of State in the year 2001 and 2002, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government are considering to increase, decrease or abolish this quota; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Primary schools

- †1845. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
 - (a) the number of primary schools

- established under the Sarvashiksha Anivarya (EGS&A&IE) within the radius of one kilometre during the last three years, Statewise in the country; and
- (b) the State-wise expenditure incurred thereon particularly the position of Bihar in this regard?

Computer education

- †1846. PROF. R. B. S. VARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the computer eduation has not developed so far adequately in Government schools and colleges;
- (b) if so, what is the status of computer education at present;
- (c) whether Government have formulated the draft of any concrete plan for overall development of computer education;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government have issued any special guidelines to States in the area of computer education; and
 - (f) if so, the details thereof?

Delay in recognition to college/ university course

†1847. 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 the students have to suffer due to the delay in the process of granting recognition for courses to the colleges or Universities;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;
- (c) whether Government would declare the date of commencement of the academic year as the last date for recognition in order to check the delay in taking decision to grant recognition; and
- (d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools

1848. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of schools covered under the Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS), State-wise, as on 31st March, 2002;
- (b) the criterion adopted for selection of schools under the scheme;
- (c) whether private schools are also covered under the scheme;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the target fixed for coverage of more schools under the scheme; and
- (f) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

Deemed University status to educational institutions in Karnataka

- 1849. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) what are the basic norms binding recognition of educational institutions as 'Deemed Universities';

- (b) whether recognition has been given to Regional Engineering College, Suratkal, Karnataka as a 'Deemed University';
- (c) whether the Karnataka Government has recommended a few educational institutions for grant of Deemed University status; and
 - (d) if so, the Centre's response thereto?

Suicide by students

1850. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of students who committed suicide after examination results in different States, including Madhya Pradesh, during the last two years;
 - (b) whether the trend is on the increase;
- (c) if so, the factors responsible for this; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to solve the problem?

Adult and Non-formal Education Centres in Maharashtra

- 1851. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to increase the number of adult and non-formal education centres in the country particularly in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's policy for setting up of nonformal education centres; and
- (c) what is the number of adult and nonformal education centres running smoothly in the country, particularly in Maharashtra?

Operational parameters of NVS

1852. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): DR. AKHILESH DAS:

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

- (a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General, in its latest report, has observed that the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti has not succeeded so far in establishing its own operational parameters, for promoting excellence through model educational institutions, since its inception in 1986; and
- (b) if so, in what context such an observation was made, indicating the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas set up so far in each State and Union Territory, and the steps taken to make the scheme a success?

Unauthorised pensionary benefits in KVS

- 1853. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that some PGTs of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan who neither possessed essential teaching degree at the time of their initial appointment as PGTs, etc. nor did they acquire it until their superannuation, have been drawing pensionary benefits unauthorizedly;
- (b) if so, the details of such PGTs who had been posted in Jabalpur and Bhopal Regions at the time of their superannuation; and
- (c) whether any action has been taken/contemplated against them?

Irregularities in purchases in KV, Bhopal

- 1854. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 243 given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st March, 2002 and state:
- (a) whether the irregularities in purchases by the Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 Bhopal pointed out by CBI have since been examined and the action against concerned officials initiated:
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Funds for education to States

†1855. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 660, given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd November, 2001 and state the details of funds to States allotted for education, including Madhya Pradesh?

Water Management and Water Harvesting courses in Universities

1856. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2806 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th December, 2001 and state:

- (a) whether Government have since finalised the model syllabus guidelines, the modalities etc. for introduction of courses on Water Management and Water Harvesting at school and University levels;
- (b) if so, details thereof and the main contents of studies; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) how many schools and universities have been selected for introduction of these courses, particularly in Maharashtra?

Computer education centres in Madhya Pradesh

- †1857. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to set up a computer edcuation centre in every Government school/college in the country;
- (b) if so, the names of Government schools/colleges in Madhya Pradesh where such centres are proposed to be set up; and
- (c) the details of total cost likely to be incurred for the said work?

Vocational schools in Rajasthan

1858. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

- (a) the number of Government funded vocational schools running in Rajasthan, district-wise:
- (b) whether these schools have been given any special grants; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

Ministry of Women Affairs

1859. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of separate Ministry of women affairs in several countries;

- (b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a separate Ministry of women affairs:
 - (c) if so, by when; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

UN resolution for children

1860. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether India played a great role in drafting an agreeable resolution in the United Nations for betterment of children;
- (b) if so, what are the main features of the resolution passed in UN;
- (c) whether India has also agreed to implement this resolution;
- (d) how many countries have signed this resolution so far and assistance; and
- (e) what assistance is provided to various countries in implementing the resolution?

Non-formal Education Programme

1861. DR. AKHILESH DAS: SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Non-formal Education Programme has remained largely on paper for over two decades ever since it was launched in 1979-80;
- (b) if not, how far the targets fixed under Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans have remained unfulfilled, State-wise, and for the country as a whole; and

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the Non-formal Education Centres too remained mostly on paper in different States; if so, the mechanism put in place to muster their functioning?

Review of UGC grants to Universities

- †1862. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the amount of grants provided to various Universities by the University Grants Commission;
- (b) whether any review has been made to see that the amount has been utilized properly; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Restructuring the fees for higher education

1863. SHRI S. SIVASUBRA-MANIAN:

> SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVU-KKARASU:

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

- (a) whether Government has examined the Anand Krishnan and Rehman Committee report on restructuring of fees for higher education;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the main recommendations of the Committee:
- (c) whether Government propose to implement the recommendations of the Committee;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

UGC directives to Universities

- 1864. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Varsities sleep over UGC directive," published in the Hindu dated the 6th July, 2002;
- (b) if so, the details of the guidelines/ directives issued by the UGC to various universities during the last one year;
- (c) to what extent those guidelines/directives have been accepted by the universities and implemented; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that UGC directives are implemented by the universities?

IITs, NITs and RECs

- 1865. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) what are the variations in standard in IITs, NITs & RECs;
- (b) what is the policy of Government to sanction/allocate RECs on the basis of population or area of the State/district; and
- (c) the assistance given in this regard and the immediate plan for upgrading the RECs?

Problems of students in Jawahar Vidyalaya, Rajasthan

1866. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that incidents of theft, misadministration and in security among students are rampant in

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Jawahar Vidyalaya in Kherli Village in Dausa district of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government propose to look into the problems being faced by the students and their parents by instructing the appropriate authorities in this regard?

Misuse of funds by Central Universities

- †1867. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government funds are being misused by the Central Universities in the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to stop misuse of Government funds therein; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Central Schools/Open Schools/NVs in Bihar

- †1868. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of Central Schools/ Navodaya Vidyalayas/Open Schools in Bihar:
- (b) whether Government propose to establish more Open Universities/Central Schools/Navodaya Vidyalayas in that State;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the criteria to open such schools and universities?

CBSE courses for NRIs

1869. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "CBSE course for NRIs a flop show", published in the Pioneer dated 19th June, 2002:
- (b) if so, whether an International accreditation course of CBSE in Indian culture and languages has not been implemented due to which NRIs are not familiar with their native language and culture;
 - (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to expand its base of languages in other countries?

Rehabilitation of girls saved from brothels

1870. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi High Court has directed various State Governments for rehabilitation process of minor girls saved from brothels;
- (b) if so, what are the details thereof;
- (c) what steps the Central Government have taken to convey the direction of Delhi High Court for rehabilitation of minor girls in the poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Nutritional support to primary education in Karnataka

- 1871. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 34, given in the Rajya Sabha on 1st March, 2002 and state:
- (a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested for enhancing the quantity of wheat or rice, supplied under the scheme of nutritional support to primary education from 3 to 5 kilograms per child per month; and
 - (b) if so, Governments reaction thereto?

Financial irregularities in Vishesh Kendriya Vidyalaya, Ghaziabad

- 1872. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether norms have been fixed for closing down teaching in any particular faculty/subject in Kendriya Vidyalayas;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any complaints regarding closing down teaching of Arts/Physical Education subjects in 11th class arbitrarily in Vishesh Kendriya Vidyalaya, Ghaziabad, by the Principal have been received; and
- (d) if so, the action taken in regard thereto and whether instructions would be given for continuing with Arts/Physical Education in 11th class in the said school from the current session itself?

Cold water for rail passengers

- †1873. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have received any complaint regarding non-availability of cold water to passengers in trains and at the stations, especially during summer; and
- (b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

Problems at Kalyan railway station

- 1874. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Kalyanmadhyai railwaykade tikitachnahit" appearing in the 'Maharashtra Times', dated 25th June, 2002 published from Maharashtra;
 - (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) what steps are proposed to be taken to address the various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the news-item regarding deteriorating situation at Kalyan railway station; and
- (d) whether Government are considering a proposal to increase rail ticket counters in view of the increasing number of passengers at this station day by day?

Employment through privatisation in Railways

- 1875. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Railways have partially privatised the responsibility of sanitation and handed it over to NGOs, at different railway

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

stations, residential colonies, rail yards, godowns etc;

- (b) if so, whether the railways would consider on similar lines, to give the job of issuing tickets to unemployed educated youths residing in and around small stations and flag stations; and
- (c) what other employment generating schemes the Railways are planning as a part of privatisation?

Flexible ticket pricing system in Railways

- 1876. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are planning to introduce flexible pricing for premium class tickets in the Indian Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the new flexi-pricing system is likely to be introduced?

Tripura Rail Project

- 1877. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Tripura Rail Project, for laying 108 kilometers rail line from Kumarghat to Agartala is behind the schedule by a year, from the original target date:
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the bottlenecks obstructing the said project?

Train services in Tamil Nadu

- 1878. SHRI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether any survey regarding the passengers traffic between Chennai and Madurai/Southern districts of Tamil Nadu has been conducted:
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether considering the heavy passenger traffic on these routes, it is proposed to increase the number of trains;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Construction of Numali-Bhaptiyahi rail line

- 1879. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether he has taken an initial action for reconstruction of Nirmali-Bhaptiyahi rail line during his visit to Nirmali under Samastipur division of North-eastern railway on 20th June, 2002; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the scheme of construction of this important rail line?

Rate of power supplied to Railways

†1880. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) from which institutions the Railways purchase power and the annual quantum from each; and
- (b) at which rates power to Railways is being provided by each power producing or distributing institution?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Lease of surplus railway land

- 1881. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Railways have decided to lease out surplus lands in urban areas to developers for commercial plazas and multiplexes and that in rural areas to plantation companies on a revenue-sharing basis:
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the viewpoints of States, within whose jurisdiction the surplus lands are situated, have been consulted in the matter; if not, the reasons therefor?

Disinvestment in Railway PSUs

- 1882. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Railways are not in favour of disinvestment in Rail India Technical and Economic Services and Indian Railway Construction Corporation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor:
- (c) what are the recommendations of disinvestment commission in regard to these PSUs; and
 - (d) the reaction of the Railways thereon?

Fictitious bills in Northern Railways catering department

- †1883. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether payments through fictitious bills are continuing in Catering Department of Northern Railway, if so, to what extent and to whom payments are made;

- (b) whether any inquiry regarding payments made on the basis of fictitious bills has been conducted by Government; if so, the results thereof and what action has been taken in this regard; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons thereof?

Encroachment of railway lands

- 1884. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Railway Operations derailed appearing in the Hindu dated 13th June, 2002:
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the problems of large scale encroachment of Railway lands and tracks highlighted in the news-item which have rendered Railway's expansion programmes completely infructuous?

Super fast train between Bhubaneswar and Kanyakumari

- 1885. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Orissa Government has made a request for introduction of a superfast train between Bhubaneswar and Kanyakumari *via* Chennai;
- (b) whether the request was made to meet the long pending demand of the State for carriage of pilgrims and tourists from Orissa to various places in the South; and
- (c) whether Government are considering the request favourably; if so, by when the above train is likely to be introduced to meet the popular demand of the people of the State?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Problem of train passengers

- †1886. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to completely check the misbehaviour of porters with passengers at railway stations, the entry of unauthorized passengers in reserved compartments and disturbance being created since long by the beggars and illegal vendors in trains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when, the plan in this regard would be executed;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the manner in which Government would make the travel of passengers secured?

Conversion of Saryu Express into fast passenger

- †1887. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the Saryu Express has halt at 16 stations on its 155 km. long route and halts at all the stations between Pratapgarh and Allahabad though the number of its passengers is very low due to express fare charged therefor and therefore the train is running in loss;
- (b) whether Government would convert this train into a fast passenger train so that a maximum number of passenger can travel in this train on account of less fare and the department can earn profit;
 - (c) if so, by when; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Passengers travelling on roof of the coaches

- †1888. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that despite strict instructions of the Railway administration, passengers still travel over the roof of railway coaches in utter violation of rules;
- (b) whether there are strict directions by the Ministry to the station management not to allow any passenger to travel over the roof of coaches, in engines and in the space between the two coaches and to give green signal to the trains only after ensuring compliance of the above directions;
- (c) if so, the reasons for non-compliance of this rule strictly; and
- (d) what are Government's plans to solve this problem?

Upgradation of CRS at Nagpur

- 1889. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Railways propose to upgrade Central Railway Reservation System in Nagpur and surrounding stations; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

Rakesh Mohan Committee Report on restructuring of Railways

- 1890. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3442 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th April, 2002 and state:
- (a) whether the Railways have completed to study on the Report of Dr. Rakesh Mohan about restructuring of the Railways;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) how many of its recommendations have been implemented so far; and
- (d) how many of its recommendations have been rejected?

Suggestions on railway catering/ vending stalls

- 1891. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of suggestions/references on bookstalls and catering/vending stalls etc. by Members of Parliament are pending for two and half years in the Commercial/Traffic Department of the Railway Board and no specific reply has been issued on each reference;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether any period has been fixed by Government for issue of the final reply to references of Members of Parliament?

Super fast train between Delhi and Haridwar

- †1892. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are contemplating to run a new superfast train from Delhi to Haridwar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when the work in this regard is likely to be started;and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Railway claims for compensation

1893. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claims of compensation

- pending in R.C.T. as on 31st March, 2002;
- (b) the number of claims pending for more then three to five years and more; and
- (c) what are the precise reasons for the inordinate delay in the settlement of claim cases?

Royalty by the Railways to Orissa

- 1894. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Supreme Court had given a verdict in Civil Appeal No. 2235 of 1996, calling upon the Railways to pay royalty to Orissa Government for utilization of minor minerals for construction of Koraput-Royagada Rail Link; and
- (b) whether the royalty has since been paid to the State Government; if not, by when this would be paid to honour the Supreme Court verdict?

Enhancement of royalty and licence fee from AH wheeler and company

- 1895. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have been recovering a royalty/licence fee at the rate of 3 to 4 per cent on gross sales turnover for the last 55 years continuously from A.H. Wheeler and Company, a big book stall contractor; and
- (b) if so, whether any proposal to enhance the rate of royalty/licence fee of the above firm on the pattern of catering/vending contract *i.e.*, 12 per cent and 15 per cent on the gross sales turnover is under Government's consideration?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Status paper on Railways

- †1896. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have received any response from the public in response to the questions raised in 'latest status paper' after the same has been presented in the Parliament;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the steps proposed or being proposed to be taken by Government?

Recruitment Scandal in Kapurthala Rail Coach Factory

- 1897. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the daily 'Punjabi Tribune', Chandigarh, regarding recruitment scandal in Rail Coach Factory, Kapurtala in Punjab;
- (b) if so, what are the details thereof; and
- (c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

Over-aged rail signalling cabins

1898. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the total number of signalling cabins which are existing at present and how many out of them are over-aged and have been replaced?

Unsafe rail lines

†1899. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the rail lines all over the country are becoming quite unsafe:
- (b) if so, whether Government are contemplating to take any steps for safety of these rail lines; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

National Centre for Plant Genome Research

- 1900. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have a proposal to set up National Centre for Plant Genome Research;
- (b) if so, the time-frame by which the centre would become operational;
- (c) whether Government propose to develop Lab-to-field linkages between the centre and the farmers; and
- (d) the total amount earmarked and spent?

Creation of separate time zones

- 1901. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 302 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 2002 and state:
- (a) what are the findings of the highlevel expert committee set up by the Ministry of Science and Technology, to look into the proposal for creation of two separate time zones for the country;
- (b) the decision taken by Government on such findings;
 - (c) whether Government have solved the

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

problem of North-Eastern States with regard to time, faced by those States;

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

TIFAC workshop

1902. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the views expressed by some leading scientists at a recent one-day workshop organised by the Technology, Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) pleading for urgent need to promote special rural development related technologies; and
- (b) if so, the highlights of views/ observations made at the said workshop and the details of plans drawn up, if any, to select critical technologies to provide development directions for rapid growth of the rural economy of the country?

Loan for modernisation of SAIL

- 1903. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 433, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th July, 2002 and state:
- (a) the total amount borrowed by SAIL during the last three years for modernisation of its plants; and
- (b) to what extent the debt burden has been minimised and the progress achieved?

Revival package for IISCO

1904. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether SAIL's revival proposal for IISCO envisaged grant of Rs. 200 crore for meeting cash loss;
- (b) whether the same has not been approved by Government;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor, when IISCO is facing acute shortage of working capital and its day-to-day operation are in jeopardy;
- (d) whether SAIL has approached Government to reconsider their decision;
 - (e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Enquiry into modernisation of RSP

- 1905. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government had ordered an enquiry into the alleged corruption in respect of modernisation of Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) involving Rs. 5000 and odd crore;
- (b) whether the Enquiry Committee submitted its report six months ago;
- (c) if so, whether a copy of the findings of the Enquiry Committee would be laid on the Table of the House; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that Additional Chief Vigilance Officer of Rourkela Steel Plant who was entrusted with the job of assisting this Enquiry Committee, was in charge of the biggest package in the said modernisation?

Iron-ore mining by KIOCL in Western Ghats

1906. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) why Kudremukh Iron-Ore Company Limited (KIOCL) had started mining ironore in the Western Ghats;

- (b) whether it is a fact that area has lowgrade iron-ore deposits;
- (c) if so, the reasons for their mining the deposits, when the country has rich iron ore, almost above 60 per cent, in other parts of the country;
- (d) how long iron-ore mining would go on in Kudremukh area; and
- (e) how much deposits would be taken out from that area?

Freight rate for steel

1907. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether freight rates for steel-making raw materials and finished steel in India is exorbitantly high, compared to other countries:
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether high freight rates of steel make it uncompetitive; and
- (d) if so, what measures Government propose to take in this regard?

Setting up of a SAI centre in M.P.

- †1908. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that 100 acres of land had been transferred to the Sports Authority of India about a year ago, by the Madhya Pradesh Government, to set up a centre of central region of Sports Authority of India, in Bhopal;
 - (b) whether it is also a fact that the State

Government has made a provision of Rs. 1.00 crore in Budget of current financial year; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the very slow progress of setting up the above centre?

Promotion of sports in U.P.

1909. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds granted to Uttar Pradesh for promotion and development of sports activities during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and
- (b) the steps being taken by Government to ensure proper utilisation of funds granted for the purpose?

Popularising games among youths

- 1910. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have identified some games, which can be promoted and developed for popularising amongst the youths;
- (b) if so, what are the games so identified;
- (c) what are the salient features of such plans; and
- (d) if answer to part (a) above be in negative, whether Government would consider doing so?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Encouraging women sport-persons

1911. SHRI R. SHUNMUGA-SUNDARAM:

> SHRI C. P. THIRUNA-VUKKARASU:

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

- (a) what are the schemes formulated and available, to promote and encourage women sport-persons;
- (b) how much funds have been allocated, per year;
- (c) what are Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies involved in implementation of such schemes; and
- (d) how many women sport-persons have been benefited so far, from these schemes?

Re-operating the All-India Sports Council

†1912. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

- (a) whether Government have decided to re-operate the All-India Sports Council;
- (b) if so, when this Council was established first;
- (c) for how many years the said Council has been inactive; and
- (d) the reasons for re-operating this Council by Government and Government's assessment of the annual expenditure, so far, for the purpose?

Developing National Institute of Sports at Patiala as Deemed University

- 1913. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the position of the National Institute of Sports at Patiala, which was once proposed to be developed as Deemed University, with similar Institutes at Bangalore, Kolkata, etc.; and
- (b) whether Government propose to revive the proposal, with courses like Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Prosthetics and Orthotics, etc.?

Youth hostels in Assam

- 1914. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of youth hostels set up, so far, in Assam, location-wise;
- (b) the number of hostels proposed to be set up, in the State, location-wise; and
- (c) the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Body Building Organisations

- 1915. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there are two separate Internationally recognised Body Building Organisations in India, namely the Indian Body Building Federation, which exclusively, conducts championship in weight category, and the National Amateur Body Builders Federation, which

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

exclusively conducts championships in the height category;

- (b) whether there are two similar world Bodies, dealing with weight and height categories, separately;
 - (c) if so, why Government have not yet

recognised the National Amateur Body Builders Federation, despite they being entitled for recognition;

- (d) whether Government would ensure recognition now; and
 - (e) if so, when?

New Delhi; *The* 27th July, 2002 *Sravana* 5, 1924 (Saka) R.C. TRIPATHI, Secretary-General.

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