

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the December 2, 2004/Agrahayana 11, 1926 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions —113

Employment in Agro and Rural Industries

†70. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons employed in the agro based and rural industries and the percentage of persons working in above industries out of total employed persons;

(b) whether it is a fact that the employment opportunities in the both the above category of industries have declined; and

(c) if so, the details of the measures being taken to promote the agro and rural industries and increase the job-opportunities therein?

Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana

71. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Uttar Pradesh

under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana during the last three years; and

(b) the details of amount utilised as well as unutilised out of the above?

Promotion of ARIs in Uttar Pradesh

72. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps Government have taken to promote agro-based industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the rural industries under implementation in the State; and

(c) the details of funds allotted, sanctioned, released and utilised for this purpose during the last three years?

PMRY in Uttar Pradesh

73. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have set any target for generating employment opportunities during the last three years under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the actual achievements made in this regard?

Boosing of ARIs

74. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agro and rural industries in the country are in doldrums and not being able to compete in the open market with their products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to help the agro and rural industries to sustain and grow?

Establishment of ARIs

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

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to establish agriculture based industries, provide technical training for it as well as to provide financial assistance for the establishment of Industries to farmers in order to bring improvement in the economic conditions of the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government are considering to formulate any plan in this regard in the near future?

Technical viability of nuclear fusion

76. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANARAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is thinking of joining the highly ambitious project promoted by a select band of advanced countries to build a plant to demonstrate technical viability of nuclear fusion as a source of energy;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the countries that are involved in the project; and

(c) the financial commitment required to become a member of the programme?

Mineral production in the country

77. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently approved Rs. 4000 crores of FDI in the mining sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is not a fact that due to obsolete technology by Indian minerals the country has been deficient in high value minerals; and

(d) the total mineral production in the country during the last three years, year-wise?

Private investments in Mines

78. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed private investment in mines and minerals sector;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Constitution of Committee of Ministers
on Coal Industry**

†79. SHRI RAMJETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had constituted the Committees of Ministers from time to time to deliberate on the problems of the coal industry during the last five years;

(b) if so, the names of the Ministers nominated on these Committees during January, 2001 to July, 2004 together with the dates on which they were nominated; and

(c) the number of meetings held by each of the Committee together with the recommendations made by them on the problems of the industry?

Filling up of vacant posts in NALCO

†80. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Directors lying vacant at present in the National Aluminum Company (NALCO) in Orissa;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the posts are likely to be filled in and modes Government are likely to adopt therefor?

Deteriorating condition of MTNL and BSNL

81. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a survey conducted by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, it has been revealed that the quality of service has deteriorated;

(b) whether it is also a fact that both the Units of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in Delhi and Mumbai and most of the telecom circles of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited failed to meet the quality of service norms; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

Teledensity of urban and rural areas

82. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural teledensity is extremely low as compared to the urban teledensity;

(b) the details of present teledensity of rural and urban areas; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to remove the disparity between the rural and urban connectivity and also to increase the rural telecom penetration?

Provision of telephone facilities in the villages

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

(a) the number of villages in the country which are presently without telephone facility, district-wise; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the details of the steps, if any, taken by Government to provide telephone facility in these villages along with the time frame?

Provision of Fax/STD/ISD to Gram Panchayats

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

(a) whether Government have formulated a policy to cover all the Gram Panchayats of the country with public phone facilities including FAX/STD/ISD etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the above facilities would be provided?

Uniform billing code

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

(a) whether the telecom department is expanding and updating the dispute resolution mechanism in the wake of increasing number of consumer grievances against service providers;

(b) whether service providers including private telecom companies indulge in over billing through confusing technical jargons which are not comprehensible to layman consumer; and

(c) whether the telecom department will enforce a uniform billing code/format for all the operators to protect consumers?

BPO facilities under threat from South Africa

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

(a) whether India's stature as the number one choice for UK companies locating contact centres and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) facilities is under threat with South Africa emerging as a challenger;

(b) whether South Africa has edge in terms of huge supply of labour and being in the same time-zone as UK coupled with their fluent communication skills in English; and

(c) whether NASSCOM is seized of this emerging threat from South Africa to Indian IT industry, and if so a gist of their findings?

Revenue loss due to illegal routing of international call

87. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI A. VIJA YARAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam has any measures to control illegal routing of international calls through local lines;

(b) if so, the details as on today;

(c) if so, the details of revenue loss for the last two years due to illegal routing of international calls through local lines, year-wise, category-wise; and

(d) if so, the details of firm/company/infocom indulged in the illegal routing for the last two years, year-wise, category-wise?

Cyber crimes

88. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANARAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

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

(a) the details of cyber crimes registered
in the country since the passing of IT and
other related Acts on cyber crime, year-
wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the cyber
crimes are on the rise during the last two
years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what preventive mechanism
Government have to counter cyber crimes
in the country?

**Provision of new telephone connections
in certain States**

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

(a) the details of telephone connections
of BSNL and MTNL surrendered or
disconnected during the last two years,
year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than
17 lakh applications are pending for new
telephone connection before BSNL/
MTNL, particularly from the States of
Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal,
Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details of break-up, State-
wise; and

(d) what measures Government are
taking to stop migration of these customers
to other service providers?

**TRIs demand for its share from licence
fee**

†90. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRIRAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory
Authority of India have asked to provide
0.05 per cent of the amount of licence fee
earmarked therefor;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) the quantum of amount allotted on
annual average basis to the said authority
during the last three years; and

(d) the details of Heads under which
the same amount has been spent by the
authority on annual average basis?

Illegal ILD call racket in Nepal

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

(a) whether Government are aware of a
large scale racket operating in Nepal on
international calls being routed as local
calls thereby causing loss to MTNL and
BSNL;

(b) whether the MTNL subsidiary in
Nepal has complained to DoT seeking its
help to curtail or atleast minimise such ILD
call bypass;

(c) whether off late, there have been
reports that even private telecom operators
in India indulge in large-scale routing of
ILD calls as local calls causing loss to
MTNL and BSNL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Statewide Area Network Policy

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have rolled out Statewide Area Network Policy to facilitate the creation of necessary infrastructure by State Governments;

(b) if so, the salient features of the above policy; and

(c) the total amount that Government are going to spend for the development of this network in the country?

Replacement of land line phones by WLL/Mobile phones

†93. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any scheme in the coming days of providing WLL or Mobile phones only to the consumers by withdrawing the land line phone system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Job guarantee for IT experts

94. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's domestic IT Industry is expected to record a growth of 11 per cent in 2003-04, touching a revenue of Rs. 33,700 crores;

(b) if so, the share of software and services in this growth and whether India

has adequate number of jobs for such experts in our expanding IT markets; and

(c) the share of 'Call Centres' who absorb such trained personnel and with the expected dwindling number of 'Call Centres' has any contingency plan being thought of to absorb such retrenched personnel?

E-governance services

95. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government towards e-governance in the country;

(b) how many services have been put online; and

(c) by when other services such as collection of taxes etc. would be put online?

Formulation of Broad Band Policy

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a Broad Band Policy, 2004;

(b) if so, the salient features of the new policy; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or proposed to take for promoting indigenous industries to manufacture Broad Band-related equipment?

Losses suffered by BSNL through Cell One connections

97. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has suffered heavy losses through the working of the 'Cell One' connections in Pune area;

(b) if so, the extent of the losses estimated during 2003 and so far during 2004; indicating the *modus operandi* used by the subscribers of the 'Cell One' connections;

(c) whether complicity of employees of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the scam has been probed; and

(d) if so, the findings of the probe and action, if any, taken against the employees found involved in the scam?

Cheating by postal employees

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

(a) whether Government are aware that agents in connivance with post office employees are cheating the people opting for various saving schemes in post offices at large scale;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no timely action is being taken despite officials are reported in this regard by the people; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to punish the erring persons and to return the amount to such victims and the outcome thereof?

Modernisation of services of post offices

99. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any detailed exercise has been undertaken to review the role and functions of the 150 year old institution of

the post office, having a large work force and vast distribution network spread over deep into the interiors of the country, in the wake of the emerging competitive courier companies and the internet rapidly taking over the traditional postal functions; and

(b) if so, the results thereof and plan of action drawn up to redefine the business of the postal services to ensure that the consumers get substantial value from products and do not migrate to other communication channels?

Violation of agreement by private operators

100. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL and BSNL filed complaint in the recent past against certain private telecom operators for passing off incoming international calls from the USA as domestic traffic to evade access charges which would be payable to MTNL/BSNL in terms of licence and interconnect agreement;

(b) the details of the complaints and compensation claimed by MTNL and BSNL from the private operators;

(c) whether following investigations, DoT has confirmed the veracity of the complaints and endorsed the volume of compensation claimed by MTNL/BSNL;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) the actions contemplated, if any, against private operators convicted for violation of agreement?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Frauds committed in money order handling

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

(a) the number of money orders and amount of money transmitted by the Postal Department through money order during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is inordinate delay in money order delivery, particularly in far-flung areas;

(c) if so, the measures contemplated to eradicate incidents of delayed delivery of M.O.;

(d) whether Government have received reports of frauds being committed in the M.O. handling; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken to check such menace in the future?

Misuse of internet leased lines

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are aware that the Internet Service Providers are running illegal telephone exchanges that are eroding the income of legal service providers and causing loss in taxes to the Central exchequer;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some Internet Service Providers have been misusing internet leased lines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government against these Internet Service Providers?

FDI in telecom sector

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

(a) whether Government propose to hike Foreign Direct Investment in the Telecom Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have prepared any broad parameters for such investment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Special package to telecom industry

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

(a) whether Government propose to award a special package to help the telecom industry in the country to the tune of Rs. 960 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of benefits that are likely to accrue to MTNL, BSNL and other private telecom operators; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the package?

Under sea cable between India and Singapore

105. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANARAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that VSNL has recently started working on laying 3175 kms. of under sea cable in the Indian sea bed between India and Singapore;

(b) if so, the details of bandwidth capacity of the cable; and

(c) by when the project is expected to be completed and by when the commercial operations would start?

Indian officials for Iraq polls

†106. DR. MURLIMANO HAR

JOSHI:

SHRIRAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to depute Indian officials in Iraq to conduct polls there;

(b) if so, the reasons behind such a decision; and

(c) the source from where Government received a request to send Indian officials to Iraq?

Ban on wearing turban in France

107. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of France had imposed a ban on the wearing of turban and other religious symbols for Sikhs residing in that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a Sikh delegation from France had recently met him and the Prime Minister seeking help from Government of India in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the Government of France; and

(e) if so, what is their response in this regard?

Proposal from Pakistan to solve Kashmir problem

108. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Pakistan for the solution of Kashmir problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

Prime Minister's foreign visit

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

(a) whether Prime Minister had recently visited USA, Britain, etc.;

(b) the matters discussed during the visit;

(c) whether in his speech Prime Minister had staked claim for permanent membership in UN Security Council; and

(d) if so, the reaction of various countries thereto?

Ban on Indian scientists

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the United States is trying to impose ban against three more Indian scientists for extending help to Iranian nuclear programme without any solid evidence against them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Attack on Gurudwara Nankana Sahib

†111. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that after mobilising the mob some people had attacked the Gurudwara Nankana Sahib in Lahore in Pakistan which is the most sacred place of Sikh community and if so, the extent of damage to Gurudwara in that attack;

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan for the reparation of Gurudwara;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have taken a guarantee from the Government of Pakistan for providing safety for the Gurudwara Nankana Sahib and if so, the details thereof?

Foreign visits of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister

†112. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the countries visited by the Prime Minister and him during the last three months along with the purposes thereof;

(b) the details of agreements arrived at during the visits and the benefits likely to be attained as a result thereof; and

(c) the number of Head of the States and the Ministers of External Affairs of other countries visited India during the said period and the details of agreements arrived at?

Permanent seat in Security Council

†113. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assembly of United Nations has any programme for increasing the number of permanent members of Security Council of United Nations in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made so far by Government for India's claim in this regard and whether these efforts are adequate; and

(d) if not, the steps Government are going to take in this regard at international level?

Confidence Building Measures between India and Pakistan

114. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of Pak Foreign Minister to New Delhi, Pak agreed to a number of defence related Confidence Building Measures, but there could be no agreement on Siachen; and

(b) if so, what CBMs were agreed upon and what was the point of disagreement on issue relating to Siachen?

Dialogue on bilateral issues between India and Pakistan

115. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the meeting of Foreign Ministers, Pakistan and India agreed to continue serious sustained dialogue on bilateral issues after their talks on 7th to 8th September, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether there have been areas of disagreement on certain issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to reach an accord over the remaining issues?

Manpower Export Promotion Council

116. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of setting up of Manpower Export Promotion Council to regulate hiring practices for overseas jobs;

(b) in what manner his Ministry is co-ordinating with the Ministry of Labour, which is working out to set up a welfare fund for the Indian Diaspora in various countries, to make the benefits reach the real needy people abroad;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is thinking of setting up of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra to look after the welfare activities of the Indian Diaspora living abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Discussion with Pakistan to stop cross-border terrorism

117. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of the issues which are going to be discussed with Pakistan in order to stop cross-border terrorism to resolve the differences?

Indians in foreign jails

118. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately 7,000 Indians are languishing in foreign jails;

(b) the number of the persons, out of them imprisoned for violation of labour laws, illegal stay and civil/criminal cases; and

(c) the assistance being provided to such Indian nationals for their release/delivery of early justice to them/ensuring proper living conditions and humane treatment in jails?

External Affairs Ministers' level talks between India and Pakistan

119. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the specific topics discussed between India and Pakistan at the External Affairs Ministers' level talks at Islamabad and New Delhi, when the two met in August and September last; and

(b) the decisions arrived at as a result thereof and the follow up action taken so far by the two Governments to implement them?

Terrorist training camps in Pakistan

†120. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that training to terrorists is being provided openly in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the efforts made by Government at political level to stop the same; and

(c) the outcomes thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Maoist attack on an Indian hotel

121. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maoist rebels bombed a luxury hotel in Nepal in August, 2004 raising fears about the business climate there;

(b) whether after this attack, a number of top Indian firms have shut down their operations in Nepal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures Government of India have taken to see that the business climate in Nepal is improved for Indian companies to operate there?

Inclination of US intelligence agencies toward Pakistan's ISI

122. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US intelligence agencies are leaning on Pakistan's ISI to carry out anti-India activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of militant groups are operating in Bangladesh and Pakistan to carry out terrorist activities in India?

India's dismay on anti-India militant groups in Nepal

123. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Nepal has visited India, recently;

(b) whether India had conveyed its dismay on anti-India militant groups operating in Nepal;

(c) if so, the reaction of Nepalese Government thereto; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

National Security Advisor's visit to China

124. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether our National Security Advisor has visited Beijing for talks on border issues in November, 2004;

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

(c) whether any understanding or agreement on security matters has been reached between the two countries during his visit?

Japan's support to get permanent seat in Security Council

†125. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that beside a number of other matters, the Foreign Ministers of India and Japan have agreed to provide help to each other for acquiring permanent membership of United Nations Security Council during the discussions held on 12th August, 2004 between both the countries; and

(b) if so, the names of developing and developed countries which have, in addition to Japan supported India on the said issue during the annual meeting of General Assembly of United Nations in 2004?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Attacks on Tamil fishermen

126. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government took up the issue of attack on Tamil fishermen by the Sri Lankan Army/Navy with the Sri Lankan President during her visit to India in November, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any assurance from the Sri Lankan President to put an end to the attack on Tamil fishermen by the authorities of Sri Lankan Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Anti-Indian organisations in Bangladesh

127. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Anti-Indian Jehadi organisations are mushrooming in Bangladesh coupled with Bangladesh Foreign Minister tirade against India on 7th September, 2004;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Bangladesh's Foreign Minister launched yet one more tirade against India on 7th September, 2004;

(c) whether Government have lodged a formal protest to Bangladesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of Bangladesh Government thereto; and

(e) in what manner Government propose to deal with the threat to India's security?

Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service

128. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign Ministers of Pakistan and India discussed the issue of Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the bus service between these two destinations is likely to commence?

Indo-Sri Lankan agreement on Kachatheevu Island

129. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traditional rights of Indian fishermen to fish around Kachatheevu Island and to dry their nets and rest in the Island are protected by the agreement under which the Island was given to Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, whether Sri Lanka has honoured this agreement in letter and spirit;

(c) whether Government views the attack on our fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy as violation of the said agreement; and

(d) if answer to part (c) of the question be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

Proposal for Employment Guarantee Act

130. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce the Employment Guarantee Act;

(b) if so, the details including the districts to which the above scheme is to be implemented, State-wise, category-wise as on today; and

(c) if so, the details including the source of fund and the amount of fund allotted/to be allotted for the above, programme-wise, category-wise as on today?

Housing complex for women Bidi workers

131. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to build low cost housing complex for women bidi workers in Solapur;

(b) whether Government also propose to build such housing complexes for bidi workers at other locations in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Harassment of Indian workers in foreign countries

132. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that hundreds of Indians working in countries like Singapore are harassed and they are not paid the contracted salary by some companies;

(b) what action has been taken by Government to provide them assistance to help them out; and

(c) whether Government would instruct the Indian Embassies in the respective countries to help Indian workers in getting justice?

New scheme for interest rate on Employees Provident Fund

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

(a) whether Government have decided to offer differential rates of interest on Employees Provident Fund to workers with different EPF deposits, the rate being higher for low deposits below certain levels;

(b) if so, the details of the new scheme; and

(c) the reaction of different national labour unions thereto?

Job opportunities in agricultural and industrial sectors

134. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that job opportunities in agricultural and industrial sectors of the country are on the decline; and

(b) the estimated annual rates of increase in the number of job seekers in both the sectors?

Amendment of Bonus Act

135. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are likely to amend the Bonus Act, 1964 to effect upward revision of the Bonus amount and to revise the eligibility criterion for the entitlement of Bonus;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the amending Bill is proposed to be introduced in Parliament?

Recovery of outstanding P.F. deposits

136. SHRI S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several unexempted organisations in the private sector and in public sector have been defaulting in depositing Provident Fund (PF) contributions with the statutory authorities;

(b) the State-wise details of number of defaultee organisations, together with age-analysis of outstanding P.F. deposits in respective sectors; and

(c) the steps taken and/or contemplated for recovery of outstanding P.F. deposits from the defaultee organisations and protecting the interest of the employees?

Difficulties being faced by the EPF account holders

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

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Account holders are facing difficulties in getting withdrawal from their fund account;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that EPF Account holders are harassed by the EPF officers;

(c) if so, the number of such complaints received by Government during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(d) the action taken in each of these cases; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to see that workers get withdrawal from their EPF Account in a set time period?

Employment Commission

138. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal of setting up an Employment Commission to explore avenues for generating employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said Employment Commission is likely to be set up and start functioning?

Compensation to the workers of the closed industries

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

(a) whether it is a fact that due to cut throat competition and rapid technological changes, there has been instances of closure of certain manufacturing industries in the last three years;

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

(c) whether due compensation has been paid/being paid to workers of closed industries and the provisions available under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947;

(d) the number of cases pending in different labour courts for compensation, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to give due compensation to workers on closure of such industries/units?

**Notification regarding interest on
Employees Provident Fund**

140. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not notified the final rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund for 2003-04;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the notification in this regard would be issued?

New legislation for employment

141. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring a legislation for providing atleast 100 days employment to one person from every family;

(b) whether it would be a 100 per cent centrally sponsored project; and

(c) the role that would be played by the State Governments to ensure success of the project to control poverty and unemployment?

Employment exchanges in the country

†142. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Employment Exchanges functioning in the country;

(b) the number of entries registered in these Exchanges during the last three years; and

(c) the number of persons who got employment through these Exchanges during the last three years?

**Increase of pay and allowances of
Textile workers**

143. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether textile workers of our country are the second lowest paid in the world according to an international survey; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken to improve the pay and allowances of textile workers?

**Assistance to Indians working through
Indian Missions/posts**

144. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the foreign employees against whom complaints were received from Indian labourers in various countries for violation of terms of employment during the last three years;

(b) the number and names of the employees among such foreign employees who were black-listed and barred from recruiting Indian manpower; and

(c) the details of the assistance being provided to Indians working abroad through Indian Missions/posts?

Recognition to the Unions

†145. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Regional Labour commissioner, Delhi and Mumbai have conducted elections for the group 'C' and 'D' employees' Union in MTNL, Delhi and Mumbai in the month of October, 2004;

(b) if so, the full details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that Government/department have not extended recognition and other facilities to the Union which secured first place in elections so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when Government/department are likely to extend recognition and other facilities to the Union which stood first in the elections?

Economic zones for Non-Residential Indians

146. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing to create economic zones for Non-Resident Indians in the State of Andhra Pradesh, very soon;

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

(c) whether any draft regulations have been worked out for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Administrative reforms

†147. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGHMAJITHA:

DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a plan for taking action to bring in comprehensive improvement in the administrative structure of the country;

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

(c) the outline for future time-bound programme for taking action in this direction?

Performance-related reward and punishment

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

(a) whether Government have chalked out a performance-related reward and punishment system for its bureaucratic cadre to instill a sense of accountability and transparency in governance;

(b) whether there is any provision currently in force for the Central Government dispensing with the services of a bureaucrat appointed through UPSC selection process for any administrative lapse or incompetence or financial misdemeanour; and

(c) if so, the number of times this power has been invoked by the Centre during the past decade?

Reduction in retirement age

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

(a) whether Government had sent a proposal to the Law Ministry for its opinion on the question of lowering the retirement age of Central Government employees to 58 years, which was increased to 60 in 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Law Ministry has given its opinion on this proposal agreeing to restore the retirement age to 58 in line with the Expenditure Commission's recommendations that the Government cut its expenditure on salaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the final decision taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pension reforms

150. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have finalised pension reform draft;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the pensioners have shown resentment to the new draft?

SSC examination in all languages

151. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering to conduct the Staff Selection Commission examinations in all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government are also considering to conduct the Civil Services model of examination in the case of Staff Selection Commission examinations; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Representation in Consultancy Committees of Planning Commission

152. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to include the representatives of World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and an American Consultancy Group in various Consultative Committees of the Planning Commission mainly to provide inputs for the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard, indicating the names of such Consultative Committees along with the names of the

representatives of WB, ADB and the American Consultancy Group; and

- (c) the specific reasons for associating these representatives in these Committees?

Determining of poverty line

153. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the criteria for declaring poor in Indian Official Poverty Line is lowest after China in the world;
- (b) what is the criteria for determining poverty line; and
- (c) the action proposed to take care of basic needs of India's poor as is being done by China?

Modernisation leather industry

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

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of West Bengal has requested for release of Rs. 400 crores fund for modernisation of leather industry; and
- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

Population under BPL

155. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that around 26 per cent of our population still live below the poverty line; and

(b) what is our specific action plan for reducing poverty during the Tenth Plan period and how far we have succeeded in the matter?

National fund for hilly areas

156. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to create a National fund for fast development of backward hilly areas of border States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps to be taken by Government to bring the development in the said States up to the national levels?

Backward districts of Orissa

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been made to the Prime Minister for creation of a separate Development Council for the most backward district Kandhmal in Orissa;

(b) if so, the present status of the case;

(c) the time-frame within which it would be set up and details of action plan for its speedy development;

(d) whether Government also propose to identify similarly placed other districts in the State for creation of Development Council; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Factor inhibiting international investment

158. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Deputy

Chairman of the Planning Commission has said that there is a widespread perception that the most important factor blocking international investments is the quality of infrastructure and that Planning Commission would prepare a paper on regulatory standards to evolve globally benchmarked standards and create an investor friendly environment;

(b) if so, whether this paper has been prepared;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time-frame for preparing this paper?

Food for work and Rojgar Guarantee Scheme

†159. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to link 'food for work' programme with Rojgar Guarantee Scheme and whether requisite legislation is also in the offing for generating the employment during current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

New drug for Tuberculosis

160. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian scientists have achieved a major breakthrough in tuberculosis treatment by finding a new molecule to cure the disease;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it would help reduce treatment time from six to eight months to only two months;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether this is the world's first success in developing a new therapeutic molecule for tuberculosis; and

(d) if so, by when the drug developed from the new molecule would be available in the market?

New meteorological research centres

161. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up new meteorological research centres;

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

(c) whether Government are paying heed to modernise the old meteorological centres; if so, the details on amount spent during the last three years of this work?

Products under NMITLI

162. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various products have been taken under the programme the New Millennium Initiative (NMITLI);

(b) the details of the projects NMITLI is associated with and also the funding given by NMITLI;

(c) in what manner Government ensure the safety of the capital employed; and

(d) what were the parameters for selecting a product?

Utilization of data prepared by National Remote Sensing Agency

†163. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND

TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the utilization of data made with regard to exploration of underground water and soil conservation by National Remote Sensing Agency during last three years?

Technology in National Remote Sensing Agency

*164. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of parameters adopted by various institutions for the transfer of technology in National Remote Sensing Agency;

(b) whether certain changes are proposed to be brought about in these parameters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Development of science cities

165. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the scheme to develop some places in the form of science cities in the country is going on;

(b) if so, the places along with the State where the work is going on this scheme; and

(c) whether there is any scheme to set up and develop science cities in Roorkee, Dehradun and Nainital in Uttaranchal?

Exchange programme relating to NRSA

†166. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any international exchange programme relating to National Remote Sensing Agency with other technologically

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

developed countries especially with America, United Kingdom and Germany etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Concession to Government institution

†167. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to give concession in the form of partnership to governmental institutions in lieu of technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have considered the financial aspect in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

National Road Safety Policy

†168. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLIMANO HAR
JOSHI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had formulated the National Road Safety Policy in 1992;

(b) if so, whether after implementation of the said policy the number of road accidents has come down;

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

(d) whether it is also a fact that the losses being caused due to the road accidents in a year is equivalent to three per cent of the Gross Domestic Production of the country; and

(e) if not, the details thereof?

Shipping operations at Nhava Sheva and JNPT

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

(a) whether shipping operations at Nhava Sheva and JNPT in Mumbai have been badly affected by on-going strife between labour contractors and Container Warehousing Corporation of India;

(b) if so, to what extent the movement of cargo has been affected at Container Freight Stations in Mumbai ports;

(c) whether it is a fact that CWC owes large sums to labour contractors thereby blocking of payment of salary, wages and bonus to workers engaged by contractors; and

(d) if so, the reasons for CWC's delay in clearing up payments to its contractors?

New pension scheme for port workers

170. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring in a new pension scheme for port workers, seafarers etc.;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government also plans to frame a policy on stevedoring; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Construction work on NH-57

†171. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the present status of the construction work of National Highway-57; and

(b) the target set by Government for completion of the construction work?

National Highways in Uttar Pradesh

172. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the sections of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh where widening work is presently going on;

(b) by when the work on these sections is likely to be completed, section-wise; and

(c) the sections of the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh where similar work is proposed to be taken up next?

Over-bridges in Bihar

173. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a comprehensive plan to reconstruct about 200 over-bridges on National Highways in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount to be spent thereon;

(d) the number of such over-bridges in Maharashtra and other States, which are in dilapidated condition and need reconstruction under the National Highways Development Project; and

(e) by when the repair/reconstruction of such over-bridges is likely to be started and completed?

Ship-building and repairing industry

174. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some fresh initiatives have been taken recently to strengthen the ship-building and ship-repairing industry, after a review of Government support and subsidies given by other countries;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that a plan has been drawn up for establishing two international ship building yards on the East and West coast on a public-private partnership basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and its present status?

Upgradation of highways under NHDP

175. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to upgrade an additional 34,000 kms of highways under the National Highway Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the specific stretches of roads identified in different regions, the criteria evolved/laid down for such selection, the pattern of upgradation decided therefore and the phased programme drawn up for implementation; and

(c) the details of other similar demands of States pending, if any, and long term plans drawn up for their upgradation ?

Acquisition of vessels

176. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to double the existing liner fleet strength for additional tonnage during the next three years;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed acquisition of vessels; and

(c) the details of the existing fleet strength?

Roads in Tamil Nadu

177. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh proposal is under consideration by Government for the development of highways and other roads in Tamil Nadu, the expenditure of which does not fall under anyone of Golden Quadrilateral or the North-South-East-West Corridor projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Sethusamudram Project

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

(a) whether any survey regarding Sethusamudram Project has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project is likely to be completed ?

Closed SSIs in Rajasthan and Punjab

179. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of SSIs registered in Rajasthan and Punjab that have been closed for the last three years; and

(b) what are the reasons for their closure?

Package for SSIs in Rajasthan and Punjab

180. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special packages have been granted to Rajasthan and Punjab in the Tenth Five Year Plan to revive the Small Scale Industries of the states;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the percentage of growth expected by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan in Small Scale Industries in Rajasthan; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Unidentified flying object in Himachal Pradesh

181. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scientist of ISRO come across an unidentified flying object (UFO) during a scientific expedition in Himachal Pradesh on September 27, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it was an espionage device;

(d) if so, the country or organization responsible for the same; and

(e) the steps taken to improve detecting machinery to be more effective ?

**Joint communication satellite between
ISRO and Boeing**

182. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME
MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISRO and Boeing Satellite Systems of USA are jointly building a Communication Satellite very soon;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary discussions have been held between ISRO and Boeing on this subject; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 25th November, 2004
Agrahayana 4, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

MGIPMRND—2878RS—22-11-2004.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

| | |
|--|---|
| Prime Minister | : — |
| Agro and Rural Industries | : 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, |
| Atomic Energy | : 76, |
| Coal and Mines | : 77, 78, 79, 80, |
| Communications and Information Technology | : 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, |
| External Affairs | : 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, |
| Labour and Employment | : 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, |
| Ocean Development | : — |
| Overseas Indian Affairs | : 146, |
| Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions | : 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, |
| Planning | : 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, |
| Science and Technology | : 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, |
| Shipping, Road Transport and Highways | : 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, |
| Small Scale Industries | : 179, 180, |
| Space | : 181, 182. |
| Statistics and Programme Implementation | : — |