

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the December 2, 2005/Agrahayana 11, 1927 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Environment and Forests; Food Processing Industries; Health and Family Welfare; Railways; Steel)

Total number of questions —155

Achieving growth target for agriculture sector

1045. DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether taking note of the fact that
agriculture sector had not kept up with the
pace required in the last decade, the Prime
Minister has set a 3-4% growth target for
agriculture;

(b) whether the P.M. also referred the
recommendations of Vaidyanathan Task
Force that went into problem of co-
operatives;

(c) the other steps suggested in regard
to agriculture and action proposed to be
taken;

(d) whether the Ministry has initiated
its efforts to achieve growth rate of 4% as
envisaged by the P.M.; and

(e) if so, the steps being considered in
this regard?

Research on agricultural production

1046. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether any periodic research in
Agriculture has been conducted to increase
agricultural production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been under
taken to monitor the impact of these
researches on agricultural production; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

Agriculture Coordination Committee

†1047. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government
are going to constitute an Agriculture
Coordination Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the main reasons for the constitution of the Committee?

Assistance for dairy development to M.P.

†1048. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals that have been received by Government from the Madhya Pradesh Government under Consolidated Dairy Development Plan;

(b) the action being taken on those proposals;

(c) by when the approval will be granted to those proposals; and

(d) the details of the objectives and targets set by Government under Consolidated Dairy Development Plan; State-wise?

Survey of debt burden on marginal and poor farmers

1049. DR.GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey of debt burden on two categories of farmers, namely, marginal and poor, in the country, has been done;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) how much annual average interest the farmers have to pay on their debt;

(e) how average annual income of those farmers compares with their debt burden and average annual interest they have to pay;

(f) whether the debt burden on poor

and marginal farmers is increasing and sourcing of their income decreasing day by day; and

(g) what conclusions Government have drawn from the above statistics, regarding the debt scenario and financial plight of a poor farmer?

Improving yield and productivity

1050. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 600 million individuals are engaged in farming and over 80% of them belong to small and marginal farmer categories;

(b) whether there is any special package for small and marginal farmers to upgrade them from the said category and reduce the category of small and marginal farmers;

(c) whether despite all technological applications and practices, the yield per acre is much less of what can be achieved, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there will be an integrated approach to improve the yield and productivity?

Boosting banana production

1051. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to boost production of bananas both for domestic consumption and exports;

(b) the current position of the country in banana production and export; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of the strategies proposed to be evolved for boosting production of bananas in various regions including Orissa?

Launching Mission 4

1052. SHRI MOOLCHAND
MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a two-day national meet on deciding the winter (rabi) crop campaign, it was called for the countrywide launch of Mission 4 to raise agriculture growth by 4%;

(b) whether his Ministry has identified specific reasons to immediately increase production of particular crop in the lower and upper Gangetic plains and eastern plateau, the right mix and ensure that the production of rice, wheat, cotton oilseeds and pulses rises from 2 to 2.5 tonnes per hectare; and

(c) if so, the steps States and ICAR have taken to improve the growth of agriculture in the country?

Vulnerability of wheat to epidemic

1053. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the impending threat of wheat epidemic UG 99 in its most popular variety of wheat PBW 343 in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the epidemic?

Providing fertilizers and chemicals at reasonable rates

1054. SHRI VARINDER SINGH
BAJWA: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to provide fertilizers and chemicals to poor farmers at reasonable rates;

(b) whether any specific policy has been laid down in consultation with State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Training programme for farmers in Tamil Nadu

1055. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any action plan for promotion, extension and upgradation of training programmes for farmers and soil testing facilities through National Chemical and Fertilizer Corporation or any other Government Corporation in the dry farming region of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any review of the work done so far, has been conducted in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Fishery development under Narmada Valley Development Project

†1056. SHRI PYARELAL
KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have sent proposals to Government regarding development of fishery in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

reservoirs under construction/constructed under Narmada Valley Development Project and the action being taken by Government in this regard; and

(b) the amount released to the State Governments and the amount yet to be released and by when the balance amount would be released?

Indebtedness of farmers in Karnataka

1057. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the farmers household survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, out of the estimated 43.4 million indebted farmer households, Karnataka accounts for 2.6 million;

(b) whether the majority of the indebted farmer households in Karnataka belong to OBCs, SCs and STs, identified as small and marginal farmer households; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to liberate the small farmers from debt-trap?

Loss due to reduction in kharif crop sowing

1058. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 59 lakh hectares of land was not sown during the kharif crop this year and if so, how much loss has been caused due to less sowing; and

(b) the steps taken to overcome the losses due to less sowing?

Loss of land Fertility

1059. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been undertaken to analyse and determine the loss caused to the fertility of land due to prolonged use of chemical/inorganic fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposal for the promotion of organic farming;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Assistance to Punjab for upgradation of semen banks

1060. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Punjab Government has asked the Central Government for more funds for upgrading semen banks to ISO certification for buffalo breeding of Murrah and Mili Ravi breeds; and

(b) if so, whether the amount has been sanctioned and if not, at what stage the proposal is under consideration of Government?

National Horticulture Mission

1061. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet

Committee on Economic Affairs has recently approved National Horticulture Mission;

(b) if so, the total outlay given to the National Horticulture Mission in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) the manner in which the mission helps in diversification of Horticulture Products and upgradation of technology for post harvest management;

(d) whether there is any plan to extend this mission to the Eleventh Five Year Plan also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Aid to States for promoting horticulture

†1062. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of aid given to the States alongwith their names for promoting horticulture during the last three years as well as the current year;

(b) whether the funds allocated have been underutilized; and

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

Training by CIFNET

1063. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CIFNET has trained a number of people suitable as fishing hands for Tuna Long Liners fishing vessels;

(b) if so, the number of such trained

people presently available with CIFNET for employment;

(c) the number of people trained by CIFNET suitable for Tuna Long Liners every year;

(d) whether it is a fact that CIFNET keeps such names ready for fishing vessels requiring crew; and

(e) if so, the estimated number and details of people about which CIFNET has information who can be employed specifically on Tuna Long Liners?

Livelihood security concept by NCF

1064. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Farmers has formulated a new livelihood security concept and projected a budgetary support of Rs. 8,337 crores;

(b) if so, whether the expert body headed by noted agricultural scientist, M.S. Swaminathan, has urged Government to begin implementing the proposals from the forthcoming budget;

(c) whether the proposals will also be carried forward in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, whether Government have considered its recommendations;

(e) how many of its recommendations have been accepted so far; and

(f) how many of them will be implemented in the next Budget and also in the next Plan?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

New Agriculture Policy

1065. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an NSSO survey has revealed that agriculture instead of assuming the status of industry has, since the beginning of the Ninth Five Year Plan, been rendered economically unviable with per acre yield dwindling and land holdings squeezing over the years;

(b) if so, the extent to which the per acre yield has dwindled and land holdings squeezed since the beginning of the Ninth plan period, as per NSSO Survey; and

(c) whether Government have revised or propose to evolve a New Agriculture Policy, if so, the steps taken in this regard?

Crop loss due to floods

1066. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loss suffered on account of damage to agricultural crop due to heavy floods during this year, State-wise;

(b) whether States/Union Territories have sought any financial assistance for loss of crop during the above period, particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken by Government to provide assistance to these States?

Increase in Bt. cotton production

1067. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bt. Cotton seed has been found suitable for cultivation in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and other States;

(b) if so, to what extent and the acreage under cultivation of this cotton seed in different States, during the last three years and this year; and

(c) the extent to which the cotton yield per acre has increased thereby in different States?

Seed trials of Salinger Cotton of Monsanto

1068. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given sanction for the seed trial of Salinger Cotton of Monsanto;

(b) the number of applications for seed trials pending with Government as on 1st October, 2005;

(c) the areas selected for genetically modified seed trials;

(d) whether Government have prepared any report on Bt. Cotton, so far; and

(e) the area under this cultivation?

Refusing delivery of sugarcane to mills by farmers in Maharashtra

1069. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugarcane growers in many districts of Maharashtra are refusing to deliver their sugarcane to cooperative sugar factories since these factories under instruction from Government of Maharashtra, are offering to pay a very low prices for the sugarcane; and

(b) whether due to this scuffles are taking place at several places between the harvesting labour let loose by the sugarcane factories and the cane-growing farmers which threatens the social harmony?

MSP for Wheat and Onion

†1070. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have contemplated to increase the minimum support price for wheat;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to increase the minimum support price of other agricultural products, particularly onion for which there was acute shortage in the country and as a result thereof its price increases also, so that incentives could be given to onion producers and its shortage could be met; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereon?

Plan for dry land farming

1071. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dry land and the rain-fed areas, constituting 60 per cent of the net zone areas in the country, are a major challenge; and

(b) if so, Government's plans to stimulate dry land farming for arid and semi-arid regions?

Failure of Bt. cotton in Tamil Nadu

†1072. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the attempts of growers for producing Bt. cotton in Tamil Nadu are now ending in failure after the same failed in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) whether any assessment has been made for the loss incurred by growers of Tamil Nadu due to said reasons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NAFED loans

†1073. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India is functional in the country;

(b) if so, the main responsibility entrusted to the said Federation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said Federation has also provided loan in the past;

(d) if so, the amount disbursed as loan from 2000 to the end of 2004; and

(e) the income earned annually through disbursing loan?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Suicides in Maharashtra

1074. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that farmers suicide toll has risen to 100 in Vidarbha;

(b) if so, the details thereof since 2003-04 and the measures taken by the Central Government to reassure farmers;

(c) the details of study, if any, conducted and its outcome;

(d) whether one of the reasons for farmers suicide is the high interest rates being charged by money lenders; and

(e) if so, the specific measures taken by the Central Government for ensuring cheap loans to farmers, particularly in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, where more farmers have committed suicide?

Effect of soil erosion on agricultural productivity

†1075. DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the productivity rate is getting affected due to the soil erosion in the country;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the soil erosion is to the extent of 400 tonnes per hectare in the country every year;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and whether any action plan has been evolved at the national level by Government to check the soil erosion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Allocations to Uttar Pradesh under Macro Management Scheme

1076. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Uttar Pradesh during the last three years ending 31st March, 2005 under Macro Management Scheme;

(b) the funds, so far, utilized by the State under the scheme, year-wise; and

(c) the specific purposes/projects on which the funds have been utilized?

Price increase of life saving drugs

1077. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of life saving drugs have to be increased in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that recommendations have been given for constitution of single regulator of prices of drugs; and

(d) if so, what are its recommendations and the details thereof?

Revival of Sindri and Barauni Fertilizer Units

1078. SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTABRATA
MAJUMDAR:

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Project and Development India Ltd. (PDIL) has submitted reports on revival of Sindri Unit of FCI, Durgapur, Barauni Unit of HFC and Amjhore unit of PPCL;

(b) if so, when was the report submitted;

(c) the brief out line of the revival report; and

(d) Government's time bound action plan on the same?

Domestic fertilizer production

1079. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirement of different categories of fertilizers based on the current requirement;

(b) the quantum of fertilizers made available through domestic production and import, category-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the requirement of fertilizers at affordable price?

Damage due to contaminants surrounding Union Carbide

1080. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to claim damages from Dow Chemical or Union Carbide Corporation for environmental destruction and for health damages caused to more than 20,000 residents due to reckless dumping of hazardous wastes in line with the "polluter pays" principle affirmed many times over by the Supreme Court of India; and

(b) the steps taken by Government for scientific assessment of the depth and spread of the contaminants in the

surrounding areas of Union Carbide Corporation in Bhopal?

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

1081. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) is implemented in all the States and UTs in order to ensure supply of wheat/ rice at very negligible cost to the poorest people;

(b) the feature of AAY;

(c) the number of beneficiaries targeted under AAY *vis-a-vis* actually reached, year-wise since 2000 and 2001, State-wise/UT-wise;

(d) the volume of foodgrains supplied during the period and quantities utilized for the purpose, State-wise/UT-wise;

(e) whether any review of AAY has been carried out to ascertain the quality of its delivery system effectiveness in decreasing hunger and incidents of acute malnutrition among children and women in poorest families, etc; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof?

Procurement on MSP

†1082. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2081 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12 August, 2005 and state:

(a) the details of quantity of foodgrains purchased by the Food Corporation of India and Government agencies on the minimum support price fixed by

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Government alongwith paddy, rice and wheat from Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the comparative participation of the Food Corporation of India and Government agencies in each State during that period; and

(c) the details of the quantity and the value of the foodgrains which have been procured through de-centralised procurement system in Chhattisgarh and are being stocked every year for targeted public distribution system and other schemes during the last three years?

Increasing cost of foodgrains

1083. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the economic cost of foodgrains to Food Corporation of India has been on the rise for the last several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the impact of the same on the subsidy bill; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce the economic cost of foodgrains to FCI and the results achieved therefrom during each of the last two years?

Consumer participation for regulatory reforms

1084. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether all regulatory laws and arrangements recognize consumer interest but the same is not as effective as it should be due to lack of consumer advocacy; and

(b) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to improve consumer participation for effective regulatory reforms?

Fund for consumer advocacy activities

1085. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether most regulatory laws in India have provisions for a fund to promote the purpose and object of the law but this has never been used to support consumer advocacy activities; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to make the fund operational for consumer engagement?

M/s Mc Kinsey and Co. report on FCI

1086. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that m/s Mc Kinsey and Co. has recommended that FCI should outsource its key operations like foodgrain procurement, handling, transportation and distribution as a part of its restructuring plan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that once the above operations are outsourced, FCI will be reduced for storage of buffer stocks for PDS;

(c) whether it will entail reduction of 8000 to 10000 staff if the report of the M/s Mc Kinsey and Co. is implemented;

(d) whether Government have studied the report;

(e) if so, the decision taken on the recommendations; and

(f) the details of other major recommendations made by the M/s Mc Kinsey and Co.?

Wheat stocks

1087. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat prices will be raised further in the next five months as there will be no stock of wheat with Food Corporation of India (FCI) upto March, 2006 around the time the new crop of wheat is expected to arrive in the market;

(b) if so, Government's views and response thereto by indicating the total stock of wheat with Food Corporation of India as on 30th October, 2005; and

(c) the total quantity of wheat sold by FCI under Open Market Supply Scheme in the last nine months indicating its selling price?

Increasing supplies through PDS

1088. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of rice, wheat and sugar made available through PDS during the last three years; State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the supply for PDS; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Buffer stock of wheat and rice

1089. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the buffer stock of rice and wheat in the country as on 1st November, 2003, 1st November, 2004 and 1st November, 2005 respectively and the reasons for deviations, if any;

(b) whether flood situations in many States have badly affected foodgrain procurement and buffer stock maintenance;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the justifications therefor?

Labelling of GM food

1090. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Medical Research has demanded that labelling should be made mandatory for all genetically modified (GM) food in the country because of health risks associated with GM foods;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action regarding labelling to be made mandatory for all GM food items and consumer has the right to make an informed choice where their consumption is concerned; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Below quality standard foodgrain samples

1091. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Grain Analysis Laboratory collects and analyses samples of foodgrains meant for public distribution system;

(b) whether any sample was found below quality standard during last one year; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter?

Failure of TPDS

1092. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the much-hyped Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for supplying subsidised foodgrain to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families has failed;

(b) whether as per the findings of Government's programme evaluation organization, the transition from universal PDS to TPDS has neither benefited the poor nor helped reduce budgetary food subsidies in the desired manner;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to improve the system?

Funds for food subsidy

1093. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) the details of fund allocated for food subsidy during the current year and how much amount out of it is proposed to be spent on the purchase of foodgrains for below poverty line families;

(b) whether it is a fact that leakage and diversion of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System has now gone upto 60% and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to do away with this system and if so, the details thereof and what alternatives Government have chalked out to help the poor persons?

Village Grain Bank

1094. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN
PILLAI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether Government have initiated a scheme for establishing "Village Grain Banks" all over the Country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme along with its objectives;

(c) whether any proposal to this effect was submitted to Government;

(d) the details of the grains to be provided to the banks;

(e) whether millets and pulses would also be included to be provided to these grain banks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Delay in issuing ration cards in Delhi

1095. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ration cards are being renewed or issued afresh to the consumers in about 40 to 60 days after date of submission of application forms, in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for this undue delay;

(c) whether the new ration cards are being issued through computerization of records; and

(d) the details of manner in which the new system of computerization will be able to eliminate the unlawful ration cards?

Grain banks in natural calamities prone areas

1096. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up grain banks in the areas prone to natural calamities where transactions are made with foodgrain and not money;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government want to set up 5,416 grain banks in the country; and

(c) if so, the expected cost of setting up the grain banks and how they will function?

Revising norms for distribution of wheat and rice

1097. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided to revise the norms for distribution of wheat and rice through the Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had decided to allot rice and wheat in a 50:50 ratio for rice consuming States and for wheat consuming States in 70:30 ratio; and

(c) whether this has been done due to shortage of about 20.0 lakh tonnes in the rabi wheat procured this year?

Sugarcane at SMP in Maharashtra

1098. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether purchasing or trying to purchase agriculture commodities at a price lower than minimum support price or the statutory minimum price (in case of sugarcane) is illegal and punishable under the law;

(b) whether in cases where prices are paid over a period of time, it is the price given at the time of delivery, which should be compared with the minimum support prices fixed by the Central Government; and

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has moved, along with NABARD that the sugar factories in the State should not pay more than Rs. 850/- per tonne of sugarcane which is much less than the SMP that would become payable by a large number of factories with good sugar recovery and reasonable transport and harvesting costs?

**Protection and conservation of
Ramsar Sites**

1099. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many lakes in Kerala are identified as wetland ecosystems under 'Ramsar Sites' along with details thereof;

(b) whether Government have charted out/propose to implement any specific programmes to undertake the protection and conservation of those 'Ramsar Sites'; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Increase in hazardous waste units

1100. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an increase of hazardous waste units in the country and there is no proper check on them;

(b) whether State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Centres have been asked to submit their reports about implementation of Government order on hazardous waste units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to check the spread of hazardous waste units in the country?

Poaching of lions

†1101. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lions are now being targeted by the poachers and are being threatened by natural calamities after tigers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check the same; and

(c) the total number of lions in the country at present?

**Indian Council of Forestry Research
and Education**

1102. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee appointed by his Ministry had ever recommended the granting of autonomous status to the erstwhile Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun, a subordinate office of his Ministry;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of the committees thus formed; and

(c) if not, under whose order it has been granted autonomous status and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860?

**Reconstitution of Coastal Regulations
Zone Management Authorities**

1103. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have reconstituted the Coastal Regulations Zone (CRZ) Management Authorities for all the coastal States and UTs including the one for Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this would help in protecting and improving the quality of coastal environment besides controlling the environment pollution in the coastal areas?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Licenced and illegal slaughter houses

†1104. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of legal and illegal slaughter houses that are running in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the names of slaughter houses that have installed devices for controlling environmental pollution;

(c) whether in spite of installing devices for controlling the environmental pollution, environmental pollution is being created in other way by these slaughter houses;

(d) whether Government are aware of non-use of pollution-control devices; and

(e) the action Government are taking in this regard?

Environmental pollution caused by slaughter houses

†1105. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the environmental pollution being caused by slaughter houses located in the districts of Bulandshahar and Aligarh of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the places being polluted and the type of environmental pollution being caused in the districts of Bulandshahar and Aligarh together with the details of the slaughter houses causing pollution;

(c) whether officers give enquiry report of the above after indulging in corruption while local people are agitating

against them and local newspapers are also reporting of environmental pollution; and

(d) whether Government would get the investigation done by the committee of a Central team or of the Members of Parliament in the above districts?

Environmental pollution in cities

1106. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environmental pollution is the highest in cities;

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

(c) the measures contemplated to reduce the pollution in the cities?

Pollution caused by carbon and chemical wastes

†1107. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the target of neat and clean development has failed due to the pollution caused by the carbon and chemical wastes generated from industries;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to tackle the said problem;

(c) whether the imported waste is also responsible for the said problem; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by Government for tackling it?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Leasing out of reserved forest to
plantation owners**

1108. SHRI K. CHANDRAN
PILLAI:
SHRI A. VIJAYA-
RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to
extend the lease to plantation owners about
ten thousand hectares of reserved forests
in Cardamom Hill Reserve (CHR) in Idukki
District in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof including
the number of owners to whom the land is
to be distributed and steps taken to protect
the above Catchments area of river Periyar;

(c) if so, whether the disposal of above
land is governed by special provisions in
forest Act; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof and
whether Government would cancel the lease
agreements?

**Guidelines to regulate
environmental clearance
for projects**

1109. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared
new guidelines to regulate process of getting
environmental clearance for major projects;
and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Arawali Notification Act, 1992

1110. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P.
GOYAL: Will the Minister of
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Arawali
Notification Act, 1992 prohibits any
activity other than tree plantation in the
area;

(b) what is the present status of
construction activities in the area; and

(c) what steps are taken to restore the
greenery in the area which is supposed to
be a green buffer for Delhi?

**World bank study report on resource
depletion**

1111. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the
Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed
a recent World Bank study entitled "Where
is the Wealth of Nations", highlighting *inter-
alia* that resource depletion and surging
population growth are draining the net
savings of the Third World countries and
could cripple the future generations; and

(b) if so, the details of specific areas of
concern expressed by the World Bank and
fresh steps initiated to check damage to the
environment and further depletion of
natural resources while taking decisions for
executing various development projects?

**Proposal regarding environmental
clearance of project**

1112. SHRI DRAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared
any proposals received from Andhra
Pradesh regarding environmental clearance
for various projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last
two years?

Shrinking of forest cover in Kerala

1113. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country's forest cover is fast shrinking particularly in Kerala;

(b) whether it is also a fact that encroachment on the forest land by the large resulted in losing forest cover in most areas;

(c) if so, the details of the forest land encroached upon during the last three years in the State; and

(d) the measures Government have taken to end this practice?

Cleansing of Yamuna

†1114. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is of the view that the river Yamuna cannot be cleaned like the Thames;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of Yamuna cleaned, so far; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to clean the Yamuna completely?

Conversion of vehicles into CNG vehicles

†1115. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the unprecedented success of C.N.G in Delhi, the Supreme Court has directed the concerned States to convert their vehicles

into CNG vehicles in order to check the pollution in the NCR area; and

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

Import free regime for FPI

1116. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR

SANGHI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 4,60,000 crores food processing industry in the country is pitching for a time-bound import free regime for itself, much on the lines of what is now experienced by IT Industry;

(b) whether CEOs from 44 food processing companies have met PM in the month of September, 2005 and pointed out that this sector would come up with a draft strategy outlining an on ground action plan that would radically transform rural economy through farm and allied growth;

(c) if so, the whether Government have approved their proposal; and

(d) if so, by what time an action plan to achieve these objectives will be undertaken?

Taxes on FPI

†1117. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR

PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different types of taxes at different levels have been levied by the Central as well as State Governments on the food-processing industry;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the names and the extent of taxes levied by Central and State Governments on the said industry during the year 2005-06;

(c) whether it is a fact that the prices of finished goods as well as the collection of taxes also increased with the increase in the prices of raw-materials in food processing industry; and

(d) if so, whether Government would take steps to check the rise in the prices due to the taxes?

MNCs in the food processing industry

†1118. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MNCs are working with small scale industries and cottage industries in the food processing industry in the country;

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

(c) the estimated percentage of the production by the units of these three sectors out of the total production of the country; and

(d) which sector out of the said three sectors is likely to become the most developed sector?

New format for FPI and agriculture based trade

†1119. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new format has been

prepared with regard to the food-processing policy and strategy for promotion of agriculture based trade;

(b) if so, what are the details of the new format; and

(c) what effective steps are being taken to ensure adequate availability of raw materials and keep their prices stable?

Policy for construction of cold storages in rural areas

†1120. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the Government policy with regard to constructing cold storages in rural small towns;

(b) the details of Government's policy to encourage food processing industries in rural areas;

(c) Government's policy for preservation of vegetable products as well as for the generation of income of small farmers in rural areas; and

(d) the fund allotted to Bihar for constructing small cold storages during this year and the amount utilized therefrom?

Use of Colours in food items

1121. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Nutrition has found liberal use of a variety of colours in food items which are harmful for health;

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the action taken to correct the situation?

Drug Control Authority

1122. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an Autonomous Drug Control Authority of India and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons, therefor and the specific functions proposed to be assigned thereto;

(c) whether the proposed Authority will have the power to eliminate the menace of fake drugs which is rampant in the country and also to make available the life-saving drugs at affordable prices; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Guidelines for appointments of medical staff

1123. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines in place with regard to the appointment of medical staff in medical colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any recommendations from the Medical Council of India in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

New method to fight brain cancer

1124. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists in Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, found a new method to fight brain cancer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) which are the twenty genes that have been identified by the scientists at the IISc to fight brain cancer;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the scientists are thinking of developing a DNA chip to predict the progression of brain cancer in a patient; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Filaria eradication programme

1125. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have observed the National Filaria Day on the 11th November, 2005;

(b) if so, the programmes launched at national level for control and eradication of filaria;

(c) the approximate number of people suffering from filaria in various parts of the country at present and the reasons for the spread of this disease;

(d) the measures taken by Government for ensuring their effective treatment;

(e) whether Government have identified filariasis affected areas in the country; and

(f) if so, the special measures taken to make these areas filariasis free?

Shortage of nurses in hospitals

1126. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to acute shortage of qualified trained nurses, the health services have been badly affected in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government propose to meet the situation?

UNDP report on infant mortality

1127. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent UNDP's human development report on increasing high infant and maternal mortality rates in the country, particularly in Maharashtra State;

(b) whether Bangladesh has fared much better in tackling infant mortality and malnutrition problems than India; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for reducing the growth rates of infant and maternal mortality and banish malnutrition among children in the country?

Construction of building for CGHS Dispensary No. 73, Gurgaon

1128. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plot of land

was purchased from HUDA to construct its own building for the CGHS Dispensary No. 73, Gurgaon in the year 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the construction thereon has not been started and whether Government propose to expedite the construction work; and

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

64 Slice CT Angio System

1129. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a non-invasive system of heart scan "64 Slice CT Angio System" has been evolved which scans the heart in 9 second, without angio-graphy;

(b) if so, the main features of this system; and

(c) the steps being taken to introduce the same in Government hospitals and institutes?

Progress of construction of AIIMS like hospitals in the country

†1130. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of progress made so far in the setting up of hospitals on the lines of AIIMS in six backward States from the view point of medical facilities;

(b) what are the details of the amount sanctioned for the current year and the amount spent so far on the construction of these hospitals; and

(c) by when the construction work of these hospitals is likely to be completed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Developing herbal plants

1131. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Himachal Pradesh Government has launched a project "Conservation and Development of Medicinal Plants" which apart from contributing to domestic product, would also provide lucrative livelihood to the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a similar position exists in Orissa and Chhattisgarh, in the form of Safed Musli, a vital constituent for more than 100 herbal and medical preparations;

(d) whether proposals have been received by the Central Government for developing this herbal plant to improve the economy of the farmers of these backward States; and

(e) if so, the status thereof?

Spread of 'Hanta Virus'

1132. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the surfacing of 'Hanta Virus' a deadly life threatening disease in the country;

(b) if so, the number and details of such cases;

(c) the details of the treatment of the patients; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to prevent its surfacing in the country?

Withdrawal of recognition to medical degrees from erstwhile U.S.S.R.

1133. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian students who had obtained medical degrees from the colleges in erstwhile U.S.S.R.;

(b) whether Government are aware that a large number of such students did not even have any science subjects in 10+2 examination, which is compulsory for such students;

(c) whether it is a fact that M.C.I had recommended the withdrawal of recognition of degrees of those institutions; and

(d) if so, the action Government had taken thereon?

Leprosy eradication in India

1134. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a large number of leprosy cases in Andhra Pradesh alone;

(b) if so, the number of leprosy patients/affected people in the country, State-wise;

(c) the number of leprosy cases reported in the country during the last five years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the details of units started under National Leprosy Eradication Programme in Andhra Pradesh?

**Production of medicinal plants
and herbs**

†1135. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of medicinal plants and medicinal herbs in the country State-wise, especially in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, North Eastern States and in Uttarakhand during the current year; and

(b) the assistance provided during the last three years for promotion of farming of medicinal plants and herbs?

**Meningitis and dengue cases
in the country**

†1136. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of patients of meningitis and dengue are increasing steeply in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of vaccines for the above diseases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Trauma centres

1137. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have come up with trauma project to take care of highway accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Anaemia in women and children

1138. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that according to the national family health survey-II, 51.8 per cent of women and 75 per cent of children are suffering from iron deficiency anaemia; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken by Government keeping in view the seriousness of the situation?

Growing diabetes cases

†1139. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that by the year 2025 India would be on top globally with regard to number of cases of diabetes and there would be 60 million cases in India by that time;

(b) if so, the reasons for such an unprecedented rise in the cases of diabetes; and

(c) whether Government are also aware of the fact that there is an unprecedented rise in the cases of atherosclerosis, cardiovascular disease, cardiac arrests and brain strokes and if so, the steps taken for their prevention?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Illegal organ transplantation in the country

†1140. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of recurrence of incidents like illegal transplantation of kidney and other organs in various Government/private hospitals of the country;

(b) if so, the details of such cases taken place during the last three years and till date, State-wise;

(c) whether any actions was taken in all such cases and the guilty have been punished;

(d) if not, the reason therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to enact a strict legislation against such immoral acts; and

(f) if so, by when such a strict legislation is likely to be enacted?

Innovative population control programme by Sikkim Government

1141. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the innovative programme of Sikkim Government to promote small families through sops like Rs. 2500/- to a 13 years unmarried girl and another Rs. 500/- to a girl marrying only at 22 years;

(b) if so, whether Government would be keep to introduce such sops in the rest of the country in view of population control programme; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Vaccination against Japanese Encephalitis

1142. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Japanese Encephalitis (JE) has taken 700 lives in U.P. and estimated 2400 patients (mostly children) are still critically ill;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the JE vaccine currently available at the costs anywhere between US \$ 9-15 (Rs. 396 to 660) for three doses required for fully immunize a child and the cost of vaccinating UP's 7 million children would amount to Rs. 2.5 billion almost twice the entire health budget of the State; and

(c) in view of the above, how Government propose to tackle this problem not only in U.P. but all over the country?

Setting up of public health schools

1143. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to set up two major public health schools, on the lines of the IITs and IIMs, to train healthcare professionals, policy makers and administrators on the nuances of public health;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that a special purpose vehicle has already been created and would involve Government and private fundings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Measures to enhance medical facilities in towns

1144. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether major hospitals and referral hospital are located only in cities;

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

(c) whether Government propose to set up large hospitals/referral hospitals in smaller towns so that the facilities of such hospitals are easily accessible to people living in hinterlands; and

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

Water pollution and child mortality

1145. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the highest mortality rate just better than Pakistan and Bhutan in terms of environmental threats to children's health, according to the WHO's classification which has been published in its publication "Inheriting the world: Atlas of children health and environment";

(b) whether it is also a fact that it is because of the high level contamination of water; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government are thinking to overcome this situation?

Recommendation of CCFS on safety standards of packaged food and water

1146. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of Central Committee for Food Standards on safety standards for packaged food/package water;

(b) whether they have been fully implemented;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Central legislation on medical admissions

1147. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra had sent a proposal in 2003 for a Central legislation on admissions to medical colleges in different States, in the light of the Supreme Court's 11 Judges Judgement in TMA Pai Foundation case;

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

(c) the decision, if any taken in the matter; and

(d) the reasons for the delay?

Paralysis due to Insulin

1148. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Insulin provided by the Indian subsidiary of a US company has

allegedly led to paralysis and subsequent death of a diabetic patient in Agra; and

(b) what action has been taken against the foreign manufacturer?

Shortage of doctors and medicines in CGHS Dispensary, Hari Nagar

1149. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is regular shortage of doctors and medicines in CGHS Dispensary, Hari Nagar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the medicines prescribed by medical specialists for local purchase are not being indented by the said dispensary;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to augment the strength of doctors, ensure availability of medicines in the dispensary, indenting of medicines for local purchase and settlement of all pending bills of reimbursement of cost of purchase of medicines to serving and retired employees attached to that dispensary?

Dengue and malaria cases in the country

†1150. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the number of persons becoming victims of dengue and malaria in the country, if so the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme to

deal with the challenge posed by mosquitoes, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government and administration of the hospitals are aware of the number of persons who have died due to these diseases, so far, in the country and the number of persons still admitted in the hospitals; and

(d) the details of the steps taken by Government for the prevention of these diseases in the States?

Law to control spurious medicines

1151. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested for selling fake medicines in each State during the last one year;

(b) the action taken against them so far;

(c) whether Government propose to make laws more stringent to stop sale of such fake medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Vitamin and mineral deficiencies

1152. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 30 per cent people in India suffer from vitamin and mineral deficiencies;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that women and children are the most affected as it damage health, impair work capacity, impact reproduction, reduce intelligence and occupational choices;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details of such affected people;

(e) whether it is also a fact that less than Rs. 5 per child can tackle micronutrient deficiencies problem as per the latest report released by Micronutrient Initiatives; and

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

Bird flu

1153. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:
SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a threat of bird flu in the country;

(b) what steps have been taken to face this disease;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India does not have sufficient stocks of influenza vaccines; and

(d) the steps proposed for the production and availability of Avian Flu Vaccine in the country?

Denial of emergency service to CGHS beneficiaries

1154. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain recognised hospitals in the Capital have since stopped the facility of entertaining the pensioners and C.G.H.S. beneficiaries at the time of visiting the hospitals for emergency treatment; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor

and what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

Global action plan to control bird flu

1155. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an International Conference on bird flu has identified key components of a global action plan to control avian influenza in animals and simultaneously limit the threat of a human influenza pandemic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of cases reported in India so far, relating to bird flu; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to contain the disease?

Arthritis in children

†1156. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three lakhs children in the age group of one to sixteen years are affected from Arthritis in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have enough resources for the treatment of this disease;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the number of affected children is increasing continuously;

(d) if so, whether Government are taking any special measures to check this disease; and

(e) the details of action plan adopted/ being adopted for the prevention of the said disease?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Small family norms

1157. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no uniform policy in the country regarding encouraging people to adopt small family norms;

(b) whether Government are aware that in China the slogan to control population is "HUM DO HUMARE EK" unlike India's slogan "HUM DO HUMARE DO";

(c) if so, whether Government propose to enact any legislation to adopt uniform policy to control population explosion; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount of assistance provided by Government for encouraging people to adopt small family norms during the last three years, till date, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra & Punjab?

Preventing sex selective abortions

1158. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Medical Professionals have been prosecuted for sex selective abortions under PNDT Act, since May, 2001, State-wise;

(b) whether there have any convictions and if so, the number of convictions thereof; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to prevent sex selective abortions?

Fund allocation for curbing various diseases

1159. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate schemes and programmes for controlling Cancer, T.B. AIDS, Hepatitis B, Asthama, etc.;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes and programmes; and

(c) the details of funds allocated, released and actually utilised for implementation of the schemes during the last three years and till date?

Amount spent on VIP treatment by CGHS

1160. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent through CGHS on the treatment abroad and the travelling allowance etc. on VIPs and their attendants during the last three years, year-wise ending 31st March, 2005;

(b) the actual number of VIPs who received treatment abroad during the above period, year-wise;

(c) how does this expenditure compare with the total budgetary provision of the CGHS, year-wise; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take so as to reduce the expenditure on treatment of VIPs outside the country?

Upgradation of rural hospitals and health infrastructure

1161. DR. KARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to focus on upgradation of block and district level hospitals;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is also planning to launch a pilot project of universal health insurance in the country;

(c) whether under the Rural Health Mission Rs. 6,700 crores have been allocated for this year to ensure that health infrastructure in rural areas improves;

(d) if so, the other measures being considered for improving the health infrastructure in rural areas;

(e) the total public care centres in the country; and

(f) the extent to which these measures have helped in improving the healthcare in rural areas?

Pesticides in vegetables and fruits

1162. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether excessive pesticides are found in vegetables and fruits;

(b) if so, its effects on human bodies; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to meet the alarming situation?

Ill-effects of commercialisation of medical services and medical education

1163. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the owners

of most of the private sector hospitals and medical colleges are essentially business men and they have reduced medical care to the level of a business or industry by employing over investigation, and performing surgery unnecessarily, keeping brain dead cases on ventilator for days purely for monetary gains;

(b) whether it is also a fact that commercialisation of medical education has resulted into commercialisation of medical practice and ethical standards have fallen and the practice of medicine has become a trade but not a calling; and

(c) what comprehensive measures Government have conceived and implemented to correct, control and contain this evil effectively and efficiently?

Junk food habit among the people

1164. SHRI VARINDER SINGH
BAJWA:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that junk food is fast gaining popularity in metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Chandigarh and Delhi wherein people are getting quickly attracted towards it;

(b) if so, whether the food experts the world over, have expressed their concern over increasing consumption of junk food as a large number of children and youths are falling victims;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take concrete steps to check the expanding junk food culture in order to save our children from its adverse impact;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Declining polio cases

1165. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the polio cases have declined during the current year compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the details of such reported cases during the last year and the current year in the State/U.T.;

(c) the funds allocated to each State/ U.T. for such period;

(d) the funds utilized by each State/U.T. during such period;

(e) whether Government have any proposal to announce a polio-free India;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the type 2 virus of polio has already been eliminated; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

WHO report on flu pandemic

1166. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has warned an outbreak of flu pandemic which may cause heavy damage to human lives;

(b) if so, when the last time flu pandemic attacked and the number of human lives lost;

(c) the steps taken by Government to combat the outbreak of all kinds of flu, be it avian flue or human flu; and

(d) the names of pharmaceutical companies which have started working on drugs to fight avian flu or human flu?

HIV/AIDS awareness through NRHM

1167. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to include the awareness programme to prevent HIV and AIDS in the National Rural Health Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the work done on HIV/AIDS was not enough to meet the challenge; and

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

Preventive mechanism for exploitation of the poor for clinical trials

1168. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what regulatory mechanism Government have set up to prevent the exploitation of poor people who voluntarily go for clinical trials;

(b) in the context of many of the volunteers being uneducated persons, what are the guarantees that principle of informed consent is being followed; and

(c) in view of the dangers, whether Government are thinking of cancelling the January, 2005 amendment to Schedule 'Y' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act?

Japanese Encephalitis in U.P.

1169. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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

of persons, particularly in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh, have been suffering from encephalitis;

(b) the number of encephalitis cases in various age-groups reported in Uttar Pradesh and other States and treated in Government run hospitals during the last six months;

(c) the number of patients died and those rendered mentally/physically crippled for life due to the disease, hospitals-wise;

(d) the reasons for such a large number of deaths;

(e) whether any steps are contemplated for administering special medical care for those rendered mentally crippled;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Projects for doubling of Railway lines in Southern Railway

1170. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing railway line doubling projects in Southern Railway and the time by which those projects are likely to be completed;

(b) the details of projects of electrification under-way in Southern Railway and how many projects have been completed, so far; and

(c) whether any proposal for the development of passenger amenities at the Kollam Railway Station in Kerala is under consideration and if so, the details thereof?

'SOFT' scheme of frequent travellers

1171. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Railways is thinking of introducing a scheme called SOFT Scheme of frequent travellers;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed scheme;

(c) how does it help in competing with the air travel;

(d) whether the Railways is going to create a separate agency for handling this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Doubling of Jaipur-Dausa rail line

†1172. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval has been accorded for laying double line from Jaipur to Dausa in North-West Zone;

(b) the action being taken at present and the work proposed to be done in the year 2005-06; and

(c) whether this work is proposed to be extended to Bandikui Junction?

Extension of Shivganga Express upto Balia

†1173. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to extend Shivganga Express (2559/2560) from New Delhi upto Balia

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

keeping in view the crowd of passengers and number of trains;

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Ban on booking of parcels

1174. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the East Coast Railway has imposed a ban on booking of parcels weighing more than 20 kgs.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no other Zonal Railway has imposed such a ban;

(c) if so, the rationale behind imposing this ban by the East Coast Railway;

(d) whether this ban apart from hard-hitting the businessmen, agriculturalists and small scale industries in the State, is also resulting in the fall of parcel traffic income of the Zonal Railway; and

(e) if so, the action plan of Government to address this issue?

Launching of more luxury trains

1175. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch more luxury trains like "Palace on Wheels" in certain States to boost tourism to improve the economy of the respective regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the historical heritage of Orissa is one of

the most sought after religious hubs in the world, *i.e.* Lord Jagannath Temple in Puri and around 500 other spectacular temples and Maths in the State;

(d) whether Government also propose to run such a train to improve the economy of this backward State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Extension of Nizamuddin-Orissa Hirakud Express

1176. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he had in the recent railway budget for the year 2005-06 announced that Nizamuddin-Orissa Hirakud Express would be extended up to Vizag; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to become operational?

Vigilant monitoring system during heavy rains

1177. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the midst of heavy rains and over-flooding of rivulets near culverts and railway bridges, there is any vigilant monitoring system through co-ordination of railway engineers and the concerned State's mandal-wise engineers and revenue authorities, to fore-see the dangers of railway tracks in advance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of various measures already in force to send messages to the engine driver to stop or slow down, when

there is a danger to the railway track during the normal times and during the period of heavy rains?

Rail accidents caused by human failure

1178. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail accidents that happened during 2003 and 2004 due to human failure;

(b) whether the inquiry reports compiled by the Rail Safety Directorate after each accident have been implemented; and

(c) if so, the reasons for rail accidents in the first 10 months of 2005 due to human failure?

More payment option for purchasing train tickets

1179. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a recommendation by an Expert Group for more payment option for purchasing train tickets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

Electrification of railway line

1180. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of railway lines in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the percentage of length of rail lines in the State which is electrified;

(c) the length of rail lines proposed to be electrified during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the amount allocated for the purpose;

(d) the length of rail lines electrified, so far, during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the measures taken or proposed to be taken for adherence to the time schedule?

Office of Additional Chief Engineer (Construction) at Silchar

1181. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no fullfledged office of Additional Chief Engineer (Construction) at Silchar to organise and manage the work of gauge conversion between Silchar-Lumding Section of North East Region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government plan to establish fullfledged office at Silchar for this purpose which is most urgent; and

(d) if so, by when?

Vacancies in Group 'D'

1182. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about 20,000 vacancies in Group 'D' in safety category lying vacant in the Railways, till date;

(b) if so, by what time these are likely to be filled up;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that on an average six consequential accidents occur every week including collision, derailment, fire or otherwise; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

Transportation of goods by railway wagons

†1183. SHRI JANESHWAR
MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the transportation of goods in terms of weight through the railway wagons is more than the prescribed capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the condition of the railway wagons is deteriorating due to the transportation of goods more than its prescribed capacity; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to tackle the situation?

Kayamkulam as a model railway station

1184. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kayamkulam railway station was declared as a model railway station and a railway junction by the previous Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether funds have since been allocated for the further development of this station;

(d) if so, the details of the funds, so far, released; and

(e) the details of the development works, so far, undertaken?

Extension of Sambalpur-Raipur Express to Bhubaneswar

1185. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a proposal has been given by the East Coast Railway to extend Sambalpur-Raipur Express upto Bhubaneswar; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not accepting the proposal in spite of the fact that there is no direct train linking the Capital of Orissa and Chhattisgarh?

Gauge conversion in Rajasthan

†1186. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of narrow gauge rail lines in Rajasthan;

(b) whether any efforts are being made for gauge conversion of the said lines;

(c) if so, the target fixed to complete the gauge conversion work; and

(d) the progress made in this regard as on date?

Special train for Chhatt Pooja

1187. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not providing the special trains on the occasion of Chhatt Pooja in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the total number of such trains made available at Delhi/New Delhi and other important railway stations;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the expected number of devotees who were disappointed as a result thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by Government to fulfil such assurance in future in favour of devotees?

Angul-Sukinda railway line

1188. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which a paltry sum of Rs. 10 lakh has been allocated in the current year for the proposed railway line from Angul to Sukinda Road *via* Dubri, which is extremely important for hauling coal to a number of steel projects coming up in Dubri region; and

(b) whether Government would consider allocating at least Rs. 35 crores for the purpose since this paltry amount is not adequate to start the infrastructure for land acquisition, much less the cost of land acquisition itself?

Introduction of direct train between Bangalore-Thiruvananthapuram

1189. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Thiruvananthapuram bound passengers have to rely on the busy Kanyakumari Express which is jam-packed with Coimbatore passengers;

(b) whether there is any demand to introduce direct train between Bangalore and Thiruvananthapuram; and

(c) whether Government would take steps to introduce direct train between Bangalore-Thiruvananthapuram to

facilitate devotees to visit Guruvayoor and Sabarimala temples?

Replacement of landline telephones with mobile phones

†1190. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is considering on replacing landline telephones by mobile phones in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether infrastructural arrangements are being made for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details of the progress in this regard?

Kottayam-Erumeli railway line

1191. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal/project for Kottayam-Erumeli railway line of Kerala has been abandoned;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details of present status of the above project; and

(d) the details of proposal of new railway lines in Kerala and the present status of these proposals?

Increasing steel production

1192. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

had decided to enhance the domestic production of steel to over 100 million tonnes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to make the domestic steel industry globally competitive in terms of cost, quality and product mix; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Corporate plan by SAIL

1193. SHRI DIPANKAR
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTABRATA
MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL has prepared a corporate plan for 2012;

(b) if so, the estimated steel production by SAIL by 2012;

(c) the estimated requirement of iron ore to achieve the production; and

(d) the present iron ore linkage through captive mines to cater to the above requirements?

Iron ore trade with China

1194. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Chinese delegation visited

India to explore long term agreements for purchasing iron ore;

(b) whether representatives from China Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Import and Export of Metals, Minerals and Chemicals including reputed companies were representing the meeting;

(c) if so, whether delegation held discussions with the leading industry associates like CII and FICCI and also some Government departments;

(d) if so, the outcome of the discussions and whether any long term pact was signed on iron ore imports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

National Steel Policy

1195. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized a new National Steel Policy;

(b) if so, whether the same has been posted on the Ministry's website; and

(c) whether steel decontrol being there for years now, Government would consider winding up of the Joint Plant Committee and other obsolete licencing/control bodies to lend transparency at par with global steel industry standards?

Status of POSCO

1196. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the status of POSCO project of Orissa cleared by the PMO in April, 2005;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that National Advisory Council is not in favour of implementing the project;

(c) whether the Ministry of Mines has also objected to this project; and

(d) by when the final decision is expected to be made public regarding the fate of the project?

Steel Policy

1197. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:

SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have announced a new Steel Policy aiming at making the domestic Industry globally competitive;

(b) the salient feature of this Steel Policy; and

(c) how far the interests of Small Iron Ore mine owners have been protected in this new Steel Policy?

Rise in prices of raw materials for steel production

†1198. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rise in the prices of raw material required for steel production has been assessed 8.56 per cent during the year 2005;

(b) if not, the assessment of Government in this regard;

(c) whether the said price-rise has also affected the sale price of steel for the consumers in the country; and

(d) if so, the extent of increase in the sale price steel for the consumers in the country during the said period?

Effect of iron-ore allocation to foreign companies on steel industries

†1199. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of iron-ore to the foreign steel companies in the country in large quantity is going to prove detrimental to the growth and prospects of the Indian Steel Industries;

(b) whether Government have formulated a comprehensive policy in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

NEW DELHI;
The 26th November, 2005
Agrahayana 5, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X

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