

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the March 3, 2006/Phalguna 12, 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

Organic manures

†1174. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of excessive quantity of chemical fertilizers and plant protective chemicals for more production from the advanced varieties in agriculture sector in the country, is adversely affecting human health on one hand and on the other fertility of the agriculture land;

(b) whether the manure invented by the scientists of National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow and Bovine Science Research Centre, Nagpur, with the help of ancient Indian Book "Vishwa Vallabha" has been patented by America;

(c) whether expected results could not be achieved in respect of organic manures; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

Production of mustard seeds

†1175. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of mustard (edible oilseeds) in Rabi crops is likely to be more during 2005-2006 as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether it is a fact that due to over production, genuine producers will be forced to sell their produce less than the minimum support price; and

(c) if not, the provision made by Government therefor alongwith the arrangements made to procure mustard at minimum support price?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Development of rainfed areas

1176. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a steady decline in the agricultural produce and water tables are shrinking in the rainfed areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that poverty and distress are rampant in the rainfed areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to set up a national Authority for Sustainable Development of Rainfed Areas for managing all the watershed programmes funded by Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Joining the Indian Ocean Tuna Organization

1177. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our country has joined the Indian Ocean Tuna Organization;

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

(c) the objectives and other salient features of this organization?

Employment in agriculture sector

†1178. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employment opportunities have decreased in the agriculture sector in the country particularly

in the Himachal Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the amount allocated by Government under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme respectively to increase the employment opportunities in rural areas in the State during the last three years and the amount spent out of that during that period?

Foodgrain production

1179. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to downscale the foodgrain production to 215 million tonnes in 2005-06;

(b) the actual target set for Kharif and Rabi seasons of the year, separately; and

(c) the reasons for downscaling the production?

Modernisation of ports

1180. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in order to give a fillip to the fisheries trade in the Konkan region, Government propose to modernize six ports viz., Arnala, Jivana, Agardanda, Sakirnara and Harne;

(b) whether such fisheries development projects in the ports in other States are also planned;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details of the project proposals and cost thereof; and

(d) the steps, so far, taken in this regard?

Declining wheat production in Punjab

†1181. 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 country's largest wheat producing State Punjab has registered a decline in wheat production during the last few years;

(b) if so, per hectare wheat production from the years 1999-2000 to 2004-2005; and

(c) the reasons for decline in production rate and how it has affected profit-margins of farmers?

Prices of pulses

1182. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the abnormal increase in the prices of pulses, particularly at the end of 2005;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in prices as compared to those at the end of previous year;

(c) the reasons for the increase; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure reasonable prices of pulses for the consumers?

Setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Himachal Pradesh

†1183. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government are considering to set up some more Kendras with a view to setting up a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in each district of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rebate on HSD oil

1184. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Central Government for sanction of fishermen development rebate on HSD oil scheme for the year 2005-2006 with a total outlay of Rs. 318.00 lakhs under 100 per cent assistance by the Centre;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the required amount has already been allocated for the year 2005-2006; and

(f) if not, the justification for not taking action on the request of the State Government?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Making saline land fit for farming

1185. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA
KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seawater, after the tsunami strike, had left saline deposits on large tracts of agricultural land in affected States like Tamil Nadu as has been revealed by a soil test of 125 acres in some villages by the BITSunami Trust, who had adopted some villages in Nagapattinam district;

(b) whether any action has been taken to avoid permanent damage by removing topsoil layer in such affected villages to make the land fit for farming; and

(c) whether farming activities have resumed in all the tsunami-ravaged villages in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, etc.?

NCF recommendation for funding agricultural research

†1186. DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the third annual report submitted by the National Commission on Farmers which has made recommendations for bringing reforms in agricultural research;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has recommended to enhance the annual fund to be provided for agricultural research management;

(c) if so, the amount of fund at present and the extent to which the Commission has recommended to enhance it; and

(d) the decision taken by Government to implement the recommendation?

Implementation of NCF recommendations

1187. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Farmers has submitted two interim reports covering wide range of issues such as life-saving support programme for farming community, to enhance productivity, coastal zone agriculture, cultivation and marketing of medicinal plants, organic farming, etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied those recommendations; and

(c) if so, the recommendations accepted by Government and measures taken or proposed to be taken to implement those recommendations?

Production agreement of MDFVL

†1188. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mother Dairy Fruits and Vegetables Private Limited a co-company of National Dairy Development Board has entered in an agreement relating to production with other private companies like Modern Food Limited, Karnal, Amrit Food Private Limited, Ghaziabad and Dynamics Dairy, Baramati; and

(b) if so, whether any prior permission was taken from Government for it, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Land holding

1189. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the size of agricultural land holding is decreasing day by day and is becoming unviable to earn livelihood;

(b) at present, what is the average land holding in the country;

(c) the steps Government propose to take regarding checking subdivision/fragmentation of land;

(d) the minimum quantum of agricultural land holding required to make farming a viable earning;

(e) whether shrinking of land holdings is an alarming phenomena for growth of agricultural sector; and

(f) if so, the remedial and preventive measures taken therefor?

Crops under NAIS in Kerala

1190. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the crops presently covered in Kerala under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether the State Government has sought the intervention of Government to include certain other perennial crops in the coverage of the Scheme; and

(c) whether Government would consider to accord sanction for the above proposal, if any, and the reaction of Government thereto?

Agricultural Service Centres

†1191. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Agricultural Service Centres set up in the country, specially in Uttar Pradesh, State-wise/district-wise;

(b) the States/districts in which the target for setting up such centres has been fixed during 2005-2006 and whether any success has been achieved regarding these targets; and

(c) the details of the funds earmarked for this purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan alongwith the amount spent, so far, in this regard, State-wise/district-wise?

Increasing organic production

1192. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the changing scenario of increased health consciousness among people, the demand for the organic produce and its products is increasing; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to increase the organic production?

Micro irrigation in Andhra Pradesh

1193. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total acres of land proposed to be brought under micro irrigation during the Tenth Five Year Plan in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the total acres of land, so far, brought under the scheme in the State;

(c) whether Government would increase the financial assistance from the present

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

50 per cent to 75 per cent of the cost of the system looking at the pathetic situation in which farming is done and the farming community is surviving there;

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

Second Green Revolution

†1194. SHRI MANGANI LAL
MANDAL:
SHRI PRAMOD
MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that production of foodgrains in the country is declining continuously;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to launch Second Green Revolution to increase the production;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) how far it would benefit the small and marginal farmers;
- (e) whether it is also a fact that only 2 per cent budgetary provision for agriculture sector so far is the main reason for decline in the production of foodgrains; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Development and promotion of agriculture

†1195. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated any proper and effective scheme for developing and promoting agriculture sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent thereon since the implementation of Tenth Five Year Plan till date and to what extent it is more than the amount spent for this purpose during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise and year-wise?

Export quality rice

1196. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of States which are producing export quality rice along with the details of the total production of such Basmati rice in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to provide incentives to the States, particularly to the Andhra Pradesh, producing such rice;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the extent to which the production of such rice is on increase in Andhra Pradesh in comparison to previous two years?

Revamping NAIS

1197. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Common Minimum Programme has assured to revamp the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme;
- (b) whether the mid term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan recommends crop insurance with special concessions for the farmers in low rainfall areas;
- (c) the concrete steps taken to implement the same; and
- (d) whether these are likely to come into effect from the ensuing Kharif season?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Availability of tuna fishes in EEZ

1198. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made any extensive survey of tuna available in the Indian EEZ by the Fishery Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the period when such a survey was done;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Fishery Survey of India has not been able to back up its surveys with ground realities; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to review the working of the FSI?

Empowered Committee on Marine Fisheries

1199. PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Empowered Committee on Deep Sea Fishing has been formed by Government;

(b) the details of members of this empowered committee;

(c) the role of this empowered committee;

(d) whether it is a fact that the empowered committee has not been able to solve the basic problems of deep sea fishing sector; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to review the need of this committee?

Subsidy to farming sector

1200. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidy provided to farming

sector in the country is far less and inadequate as compared to many developing countries;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

MSP for cotton and chilly

1201. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh is neglecting farmers by depriving them of the minimum support price in regard to cotton and chilly;

(b) if so, the present MSP in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the farmers have lost some crores of rupees this year due to this;

(d) if so, the details of such losses suffered by the farmers in each district;

(e) whether the Cotton Corporation of India officials and traders were in collusion and were exploiting the farmers;

(f) if so, the number of persons who were found guilty, so far;

(g) the action taken against them, so far; and

(h) the steps to be taken strictly to protect the interests of farmers?

Sugarcane production

1202. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in production of sugarcane in the country over the years;

(b) the production of sugarcane at the end of the season 2005-2006 *vis-a-vis* that for the previous two years;

(c) the reasons for low production and the areas where that has been prominent; and

(d) whether Government propose to fix a target for higher production of sugarcane in the country, if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be achieved for the same?

Promotion of animal husbandry

†1203. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the plan of Government for promotion of animal husbandry in the country and the extent of success achieved in this regard;

(b) the States where animal husbandry is primarily adopted as an occupation and the schemes being run therefor;

(c) the percentage of success of these schemes;

(d) whether any special project has been formulated or proposed to be formulated in view of the geographical and environmental situation of Himachal Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Development of marine and inland fisheries

1204. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any innovative steps for all round development of marine and inland fisheries in order to give a fillip to the fisheries trade in the country, particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any suggestion alongwith some useful demonstrations from World Fish Centre Organization for the development of fishery business in various parts of the country; and

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

Using of sub-standard seeds

†1205. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are using seeds of inferior quality causing adverse effect on agricultural production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to provide good quality seeds?

Setting up of a funding agency

1206. PROF. P. J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fisheries sector has demanded for setting up of a funding agency to help for purchasing fishing vessels;

(b) whether Government are aware of the shortage of funding to this critical sector;

(c) the steps Government are taking to fund buying of fishing vessels to the sector to exploit the sea resources; and

(d) the details of funding proposed and the agency which will do the actual processing?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Doubling foodgrain production

1207. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PM had said that it was possible to double food production by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan with available technologies;

(b) if so, the modalities worked out for this purpose; and

(c) the present status thereof?

Benefit of agriculture to American companies

†1208. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to extend the benefit of agriculture to American companies following an agreement between India and America; and

(b) the details of loss likely to be incurred on Indian farmers due to this?

Private sector participation in Indo-US knowledge initiative

1209. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many private sector representatives in the Board of Indo-US Knowledge Initiative on Agricultural Research and Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the members of the board, as on today;

(c) the purpose of above board and the details of initiatives made in the first meeting of the above board;

(d) whether the initial initiative is mainly

funded for research in transgenic and biotechnology; and

(e) if so, the details of funding to the board including the source of fund?

Essential drugs at cheaper rates

1210. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken, so far, to keep its promise of providing 354 essential drugs available at cheaper rates as well as to follow the Supreme Court's directive to Government that such life-saving drugs do not fall out of price control;

(b) whether Government propose to allocate more budgetary provisions during current year as compared to last year in this regard;

(c) what is the reaction of the Indian Drug Manufacturer Association in this regard; and

(d) the steps Government have taken in this regard in the interest of the common man?

Increase in price of life saving drugs

†1211. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to high cost of some life saving drugs, general public is not in a position to buy the same;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these drugs became costly with the connivance of higher authorities in his Ministry; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Fertilizer production

1212. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of fertilizers produced in the country during the last three years; unit-wise;

(b) the subsidy sanctioned and given to the manufacturing units during the said period, unit-wise;

(c) the total quantity of fertilizers imported during the said period;

(d) whether some private trading companies were also allowed to import fertilizers; and

(e) if so, the details of quantity and subsidy distributed to these non-manufacturing fertilizer companies during the said period?

Urea under de-controlled category

†1213. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring urea under de-controlled fertilizers category;

(b) the benefit likely to accrue to Government as a result thereof; and

(c) by when the decision is likely to be taken?

Profit margin of pharma companies

1214. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 515 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 2005

and state the recommendations of Sandhu Committee which are accepted and implemented and which are the recommendations not accepted and the reasons for rejecting those recommendations?

Starvation deaths of children in Maharashtra

1215. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

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

(a) whether Government have received reports of death of children due to hunger and mal-nutrition, during April to July, 2005 from Maharashtra and other States;

(b) if so, the number of such deaths from different districts of Maharashtra and other States; and

(c) the details of Central aid, if any, sought and given to Government of Maharashtra and other States to avert such mal-nutrition deaths?

Sugar production

†1216. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the data regarding the production and consumption of sugar in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether unauthorized exports of sugar are made from India to Bangladesh, Pakistan, Srilanka, etc. on a large scale; and

(c) if so, the effective steps being taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Making sugar industry free from control

†1217. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that making the sugar industry free from the control of Government is in line with Government's predecided policy;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the availability of sugar in the country at present outstrips demand over many years; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons for not making sugar industry free from the control of Government as per the predecided policy of Government in this regard?

Wheat prices

1218. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's decision to import wheat after a gap of six years has failed to bring down the domestic market prices;

(b) whether the FCI stocks have plummeted to an all-time low of 15 lakh tonnes against the buffer norm of 40 lakh tonnes and whether Government expects to make up for the shortfall in buffer when rabi wheat crop arrives in March, 2006; and

(c) the reasons for huge variation in market prices for wheat between wheat producing areas (North) and Southern States like Karnataka and Kerala?

PDS allocations

1219. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether volume of allocation of foodgrains and other items for distribution through Public Distribution System (PDS) reckons with number of ration card holders in the respective States;

(b) if so, the item-wise quantity norm per beneficiary of PDS, including revision made, if any, after 1991-92, so far;

(c) whether it is a fact that existence of huge volume of fictitious ration cards have been un-earthed during the recent electoral roll verification exercise in West Bengal by the Election Commission of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken, if any, pertaining to PDS allocation to West Bengal following this discovery?

Shortage of ration wheat

†1220. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the information regarding the shortage of ration wheat from different States;

(b) if so, the States from where the information regarding the shortage of ration wheat and other foodgrains has been received;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have made any scheme to meet the demand of ration wheat; and

(d) if so, the outline of the said scheme and if not, the reasons therefor?

Reduction in economic cost of FCI

1221. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought suggestions from some organizations during the last two years to reduce the economic cost of the Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the names of those organizations alongwith the suggestions given by them; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to implement those suggestions?

Rise in wheat prices

1222. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat prices in southern States especially Kerala and Karnataka have risen heavily during the last three months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to control it;

(c) whether wheat stock dropped below buffer norms during that period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the quantity of wheat stock during the last four years, year-wise;

(e) the step taken so that the wheat buffer stock will not become negative in future; and

(f) the steps taken to procure more wheat as on today?

Diversion of cereals meant for PDS

1223. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cereals meant for PDS are openly being sold in the open market and the poor people are deprived of this facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to control this malpractice?

Foodgrain stocks

1224. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrain stocks fell down drastically during the year 2002 to the year, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the quantity of foodgrain stocks during the year 2002 to 2006 year-wise, foodgrain-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether the wheat stock dropped less than the buffer norms in January, 2006;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken to procure more foodgrains so as to maintain the stock above the buffer norms; and

(f) the steps taken so that the buffer stock of wheat does not become negative in future?

Subsidies on BPL items

1225. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the incidence of subsidies on items meant for Below Poverty Line (BPL) population in the country;

(b) whether the distribution of subsidized items is done through the public distribution system; and

(c) whether a large amount of subsidies are going to the mills/factories where such items are value-added?

LPG cylinders through FPS

1226. 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 Government have decided to distribute LPG cylinders through fair price shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any modalities have been worked out in this regard;

(d) whether Government are also thinking of allotting STD/ISD booths to fair price shops; and

(e) what are the other innovative methods Government are thinking of to increase the monthly income of the owners of the fair price shops and also providing more and more items to people through fair price shops?

Wheat stocks

†1227. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of wheat in FCI godowns, as on 1st February, 2006;

(b) the quantity of wheat issued by Government per month for distribution/sale;

(c) whether hurried import of wheat has become essential keeping in view the stock level of wheat in the godowns of FCI; and

(d) the prices at which the import of wheat would be done?

Task force for conservation of wildlife

1228. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a task force to study the conservation of tigers and wildlife in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the task force is also given a mandate to recommend strengthening of laws against poaching and training for police and forest guards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Private participation in afforestation

†1229. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government do not have sufficient land to meet its requirement for afforestation and plantation;

(b) if so, its consequence on the plan of afforestation and plantation on the one third area of total land in the country by the year 2012;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government propose to get participation of private institutes in this plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Encroachment of Kolleru lake

1230. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Kolleru, one of the country's largest freshwater lakes, is encroached and gradually taken over by the aqua mafia;

(b) whether it is a fact that in 1999, its 75,000 acres were declared a bird sanctuary, but the exploitation continued;

(c) whether it is a fact that the illegal fish farming in Kolleru has grown to become a Rs. 900 crore business; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save the Kolleru?

Lift irrigation and power projects in Andhra Pradesh

1231. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of all the irrigation projects including lift Irrigation and power projects in Andhra Pradesh which are still pending for site and environmental clearance from Government;

(b) the details of various reasons for not giving such clearances for such crucial irrigation projects, expeditiously;

(c) whether Government would assure of co-ordinating, monitoring and expediting the clearance process on a war-footing in the larger interest of the Nation with regards to increase in Agricultural production and

to prevent escalation of the cost of projects due to delay in giving clearances; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Poshir Dam Project

1232. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the detailed proposal for diversion of forest land of 760 hectares required for Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project Stage-II (Poshir Dam Project) is pending with the Department of Forests; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when the environmental clearance is likely to be given to this project?

Pollution in Ganga river

†1233. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that river Ganges flows along 2,525 kilometres in the country;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and whether it is also a fact that nearby 1000 big and small towns inhabited along the banks of this river;

(c) if not, the actual number thereof and whether dirty sewer water from these cities and polluted water from various industries flow into it; and

(d) if so, the estimated extent of polluted water and the percentage it constitutes of the water available in the river Ganges?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Hotels polluting the sea beach

1234. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the hotels in Puri, Orissa have been found polluting the beach by releasing untreated waste water into the sea beach regularly;

(b) whether around 22 such hotels in the above holy place are under scanner; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre to help the State to ensure that the beach of this holy city is kept clean and pollution free?

Decentralization of green clearance

1235. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided about decentralization in the sphere of green clearance recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Diminishing tiger population

1236. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tiger population is dwindling due to poaching in the Panama Reserves in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the population of big cats in Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan is also diminishing;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to combat the poaching in Panama Reserves and also diminishing factor of big cats population in Ranthambore National Park; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Reserved and protected forests

1237. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of land coming under reserved forests and protected forests, State-wise;

(b) the number of families and population residing in these forest lands;

(c) how many of them belong to Scheduled Tribes; and

(d) whether Government are proceeding to establish the right to forest land in favour of these families?

Violation of wildlife laws

†1238. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the laws related to wildlife are being violated on a large scale as a result of which Government's schemes related to wildlife are getting adversely affected;

(b) if so, the number of incidents of violations of wildlife laws that took place during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that these laws are being violated by influential persons and the accused get escaped easily due to pressure from Government?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reconstitution of Environmental Assessment Expert Committee

1239. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NGOs had written letter to his Ministry alleging that Environmental Assessment Expert Committee be reconstituted as most of its members are not environmental experts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Indirasagar Project

1240. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has started construction and other works on Indirasagar Project without getting forest clearance;

(b) whether it involves forest including wildlife sanctuary; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by his Ministry to save forest, bio-diversity, etc.?

Cleansing Yamuna river

1241. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India directed sometime back for preparing a time-bound programme for cleansing the Yamuna river;

(b) whether the Hon'ble Court also directed that all encroachments on the banks of the river be expeditiously removed;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to give effect the directives of the Court; and

(d) the progress achieved in this regard?

Nature Parks

1242. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to develop Nature Parks in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, how many such parks have been developed, so far;

(c) whether Government have decided to provide financial assistance to private parties for the development of Nature Park; and

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

Clearance of Rajhara-Raoghat rail line project

†1243. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has issued NOC for the proposed rail line project from Rajhara to Raoghat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has not accorded sanction for station building, so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the area of the land of farmers which would be acquired for laying the said rail line; and

(e) the quantum of total amount to be incurred on the said project and by when the work of laying rail line and construction of building would be completed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Forest land in Madhya Pradesh

†1244. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan to increase the forest land in Madhya Pradesh for bringing improvement in environment; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Vansadhara project in A.P.

1245. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have given site clearance to Andhra Pradesh Government to go ahead with Vansadhara Project Stage-II;
- (b) whether the project involves construction of barrages over river Vansadhara near Neredi and Orissa State has maintained that this is violation of the bilateral agreement between the two States;
- (c) whether the Centre has taken the Orissa Government into confidence before granting clearance for the above project; and
- (d) if not, what is the action plan of the Centre to redress this issue?

Freehold of L.P.G.

†1246. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that forests of hilly regions of the country, including Uttaranchal State, are under constant heavy pressure due to use of wood as firewood;

(b) whether in order to protect environment and stop the use of firewood freehold or subsidized L.P.G. are being considered as an option; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Mega food parks

1247. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up mega food parks across the country with a view to exploit the potential of food processing industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the food parks that are proposed to be set up in Orissa?

Assistance to FPIs in Maharashtra and Punjab

1248. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of assistance provided to food processing industries in Punjab and Maharashtra during the last five years; and
- (b) the details of assistance given for cold storage facilities during that period, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for increasing the assistance to 33 per cent which is now being given to some of the States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

FDI in Agri business

1249. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have recommended 51 per cent of foreign direct investment in Agri business; and
- (b) if so, the reaction thereto?

Global trade of processed foods

1250. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is one of the largest producers of fruits and vegetables, but its share in the global trade of processed fruits and vegetables is less than 1 per cent;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that only 0.8 per cent of the horticulture products are processed in India; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the measures to increase it?

Illegal nursing homes in Delhi

1251. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

- (a) whether Government are aware that more than 1000 nursing homes are functioning in the Capital without any valid document which finally causes trouble for families who want to claim medical insurance; and
- (b) if so, what action Government propose to take against those nursing homes who lend thousand of patients into trouble after paying hefty bills at such nursing homes?

Sub Health Centres in Andhra Pradesh

1252. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a Sub Health Centre (SHC) should be opened for every population of 5,000 in the plains;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that there is a shortage of 22,000 SHCs in the country;
- (c) the number of SHCs in the Andhra Pradesh;
- (d) the number of Community Health Centres in the State of Andhra Pradesh;
- (e) the number of shortage of SHCs in Andhra Pradesh;
- (f) the number of shortage of CHCs in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (g) in what way the recently launched National Rural Health Mission proposed to set up more and more CHCs and SHCs in Andhra Pradesh as per 2001 population norms?

Female sex-ratio in Punjab

1253. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the sex-ratio in Punjab is one of the lowest in the country;
- (b) whether there are States where only 720 girls are born per thousand boys; if so, the names of such States where the number of girls born per thousand boys is less than 850 and where Punjab stands amongst such States; and
- (c) what incentives and disincentives are proposed to be given to make good the imbalance?

Complaint against Pepsi and Lays Chips

1254. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Health Authorities in Saugur, Punjab has lodged a complaint against Pepsi Company India on 3rd January, 2006;

(b) whether it is also a fact that laboratory test of Frito Lays Chips found carbon particles and declared it unfit for human consumptions; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government?

Strike of CGHS medicine suppliers

1255. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi chemists supplying indented medicines to the Central Government Health Scheme again went on strike in November, 2005;

(b) if so, the duration of the said strike with the reasons therefor;

(c) how often the chemists went on strike during 2005 and the duration of each strike;

(d) whether Government are aware that such strikes cause extreme inconvenience and hardship to the CGHS beneficiaries, particularly low paid pensioners; and

(e) the steps proposed by Government to put an end to this situation?

Registered nursing institutions in Uttaranchal

1256. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of registered nursing institutions, both Government and private, approved by the Indian Nursing Council and the number of such institutions in Uttaranchal;

(b) whether the Council has prescribed any guidelines for the approval of such institutions and whether any such instances have been reported to the irregular approval of those institutions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government on this behalf?

Bird flu in South East Asia

1257. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the bird-flu is fast picking up in South-East Asian countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a real cause of worry in our country as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up a bird-monitoring project to guard against this menace, especially in the coastal region of Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Falling female sex-ratio

1258. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the female sex-ratio is falling drastically in the recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a decline;

(c) what will be the implications if such fall is left unchecked; and

(d) the measures envisaged to check the fall of female children?

**Upgradation of Thiruvananthapuram
Medical College**

1259. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the upgradation of the medical college hospital at Thiruvananthapuram to the level of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, has been received from the Government of Kerala;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision on the above proposal; and

(c) whether Government would consider to accord sanction for the above proposal and the details thereof?

**Representations by Electro
Homoeopathy doctors**

1260. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received many representations from the Association of Electro-Homoeopathy doctors for introduction of The Recognition of New System of Medicine Bill-2005, in the Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Government's efforts to save the career of doctors who are engaged in the practice of Electro-Homoeopathy and other alternative systems of medicine?

**Graft charges against officials of
AIIMS**

1261. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of officials of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences have been facing graft charges since long;

(b) if so, what are the names of such officials alongwith the charges against each and since when the investigations are pending; and

(c) by when the investigations are likely to be concluded and the chargesheets likely to be filed in courts against them?

ART Centres in Karnataka

1262. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) Centres for AIDS patients are located in Karnataka, so far;

(b) out of which, how many of them are in Bangalore;

(c) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation is funding ART in Karnataka;

(d) if so, the amount released, so far, during 2005-06 to Karnataka; and

(e) in view of great demand, whether there is any proposal to open more ART Centres in Karnataka?

Trauma Centre in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital

†1263. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that target of completion of the Trauma Centre in Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and make it operational was 2004, while it is still under construction;

(b) if so, the reasons for not achieving the said target; and

(c) by when the construction of the same would likely to be completed and make it operational?

New health schemes for poor

1264. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new health schemes have been introduced for the benefit of the poorer sections of the society during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Shifting of Government doctors to private hospitals

1265. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of doctors from Government institutes/hospitals have left their organization and joined the flourishing private sector, which has paralysed the super-speciality department in Government hospitals;

(b) if so, what is the number of such doctors who left Government hospitals during the last 3 years; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to stop the brain drain from Government hospitals and the result thereof?

Free treatment for TB patients

1266. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a programme to ensure that poor and needy patients get free medicines and treatment for TB;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this policy or programme is implemented only in some States of the country;

(c) if so, the reasons for exclusion of some States from this health policy to combat TB;

(d) the steps proposed to ensure that all such identified poor patients get the required medicines to fight TB; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Emergency facility in CGHS

1267. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CGHS beneficiaries can approach any CGHS dispensary in emergency;

(b) when were the instructions issued in this regard;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that these instructions are not being honoured at present and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to renew these instructions for the benefit of beneficiaries as well as doctors?

Labelling of ingredients on packaged food

1268. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has issued any notification relating to labelling requirements for packaged food, manufactured and sold in India and thus aligning with the international standards;

(b) whether the amended Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, ensure that such labels contain full information relating to ingredients, quantity used, nutritional information per 100 grams/ml. expiry date, etc.; and

(c) whether the existing staff suffice or additional staff with special orientation will be required to ensure compliance with the amended provision?

Rural health scheme in various States

†1269. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes being implemented in different States under Rural Health Scheme, State-wise and the target fixed for the year 2005-06; and

(b) the details of success of these programmes alongwith the details of funds allocated under the scheme, State-wise?

TB hospital in Mehrauli

1270. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are running a TB Hospital at Mehrauli in New Delhi called L.R.S. institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases;

(b) if so, when was this TB hospital set up;

(c) what is the annual budget of this TB hospital, giving figures for the last two years;

(d) whether Government have assessed the functioning of this TB hospital; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof?

Leprosy affected States

†1271. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa and Chhattisgarh are the most leprosy affected States in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government are conducting any special drive in these States; and

(c) the target fixed to eradicate leprosy completely in the country?

Banning of gutkha

1272. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to ban gutkha items in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have consulted the States before implementing such proposal;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the suggestions received from the States; and

(e) the date by which the proposed ban will come into force?

Funds for SVIMS and NIMS

1273. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released the funds to Shri Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences (SVIMS) and Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) in Andhra Pradesh upon the request of the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Clinical Trials

1274. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to Starred Question 143 replied in Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 2005 and state:

(a) whether there is any provision in Schedule-Y which ensure a level of safety for clinical trials in India in the context of removal of time lag between clinical trials in India and outside; and

(b) whether there is any provision in Schedule-Y which provides compensation or insurance for the clinical trial patients or their families?

NRHM in Punjab

1275. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Health Mission is functioning in Punjab;

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

(c) the incentives/grants/aids given to the Mission during the last three years, year-wise?

Combo Vaccine

1276. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India soon will have a Combo Vaccine;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this vaccine can be given against 4-5 diseases; and

(c) if so, the name of those diseases which are covered by this single dose?

Food adulteration

1277. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 has failed to check manufacture and sale of adulterated food items in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal to bring amendments in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Failure of AIDS awareness drive

1278. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the awareness campaign for prevention of AIDS has not been very successful in controlling the growing number of HIV inflicted cases;

(b) if so, how Government propose to revamp its awareness campaign for effective results;

(c) the known number of AIDS/HIV patients in different parts of the country; and

(d) what are Government's efforts to provide them honourable social life till their end?

Cancer patients in developing countries

†1279. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the report of WHO, more than 70 per cent patients suffering from cancer are from developing countries;

(b) the number of cancer patients die every year in the country;

(c) whether any National Programme has been chalked out for the treatment of cancer patients;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whether Government would formulate any National Policy for the treatment of cancer patients?

Upgradation of Kolkata Medical College

1280. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to up-grade Kolkata Medical College; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Family welfare centres in Bihar and Maharashtra

1281. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of family welfare centres functioning in rural areas in Bihar and Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Central Government have received proposals from respective State Governments for opening of more centres for child welfare;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Procedure of testing of Ayurveda Medicine

1282. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of procedure in vogue for testing and certification of ayurveda medicines produced in the country and those imported, if any, from overseas;

(b) whether agencies of Government also carry out testing of sample of ayurveda medicines drawn and submitted by individuals and issue certificates;

(c) if so, the details of the procedure involved in such instances; and

(d) the details of the safeguards of the manufacturers of ayurveda medicines in the event of individuals submitting samples of medicines with their labels duly pasted on the container, but its contents adulterated with malafide intentions?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

New polio vaccine

1283. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new vaccine has been developed to attack all the three strains of P1, P2 and P3 of Polio in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that P2 strain has not been seen in the country since 1999; and

(c) the details of P3 cases reported in the country during the last five years; year-wise and State-wise?

New Medical Colleges in Karnataka

1284. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the present status of proposals received from Karnataka for the approval to start new Government and private medical and dental colleges in the State during 2006-07?

Ayurvedic and Unani Institutions

†1285. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of degrees are awarded by a number of Ayurvedic and Unani Educational Institutes being run at national level across the country, whose courses are yet to get approval from competent authority;

(b) whether it is also a fact that CAG in its report for the year ending 31st March, 2004 have made adverse comments with regard to the studies and teaching conducted

by these institutions as also the scarcity of infrastructure and deviation and expenditure of the funds received; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and the details thereof?

Eradication of TB

1286. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken all steps to eradicate TB in the country;

(b) the details of such plans and programmes of Government to eradicate TB;

(c) whether it is a fact that a very virulent form of TB has again surfaced in the country, carrying great immunities, etc.; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to tackle the problem of TB in the country?

Per-capita spending on medical treatment

1287. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent/being spent per capita by the Central Government on medical treatment;

(b) whether this amount is far less in comparison to other countries of the world such as Japan, America, England, France and China;

(c) if so, the comparative details thereof;

(d) whether Government are considering to increase the amount; and

(e) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Private participation in health care system

1288. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding participation of private sector to provide health care facilities; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Increase in fine on ticketless travellers

†1289. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the time when the order for increasing minimum amount of fine upto Rs. 250 for those who travel by train without ticket has been issued;
- (b) the number of travellers who have been fined at this rate since the issue of this order till date;
- (c) the details in this regard, zone-wise; and
- (d) the details of the fine recovered during last two years prior to this increase?

Pending rail projects in Eastern and Northeast Frontier Railway

1290. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of railway projects pending under the Eastern and Northeast Frontier Railway;
- (b) the reasons for delay in executing these projects; and
- (c) the time by which these projects are expected to be completed?

Surveys for rail projects in North-Eastern Region

1291. SHRI T. R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of on-going surveys for new rail projects in the North-Eastern Region;
- (b) the details of proposals for new surveys; and
- (c) the present status of on-going survey in the NER?

Extension of circular railway from Dumdum to Kolkata Airport

1292. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey was conducted by Railways while undertaking the works of extension of circular railway from Dumdum to Kolkata Airport under Eastern Railway;
- (b) if so, what is the estimated cost; and
- (c) whether the scheme is financially viable on availability of passengers on circular railway route?

Facilities provided to SEC railway

†1293. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the additional facilities provided in the working field of Southeast Central Railway located in Chhattisgarh, since its constitution till now;
- (b) the names of the station where these facilities have been provided and by when;
- (c) the facilities which are still proposed to be given; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) the details of the reason for not giving railway reservation facilities, so far, in district Headquarters devoid of railway services?

Black-marketing of railway tickets

1294. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many touts have been arrested by Railway Police from stations during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that railway employees are in nexus with these touts; and

(c) if so, the details of vigilance cases pending against railway employees who are involved in black-marketing of railway tickets?

Mumbai Urban Transport Project

1295. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the physical progress of Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP) till date;

(b) what steps Government have taken to avoid cost and time overrun on this project;

(c) whether there has been any slippages, so far, on this project; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

Restrictions on loading of ore wagons

1296. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have imposed certain restrictions on loading of ore wagons for exports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these restrictions have hit both the Paradip and Haldia ports;

(c) whether these restrictions are of temporary nature and have since been lifted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Accidents due to human error

1297. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR
SANGHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways were to adopt ways and means to reduce railway accidents due to human error; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction and the impact thereof on the accidents?

Measures for cost reduction in railway operation

1298. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to offset the likely reduction in general budgetary support the Railways would focus on cost reduction on operation through making most trains run with atleast 24 coaches, increase their speed and increase occupancy rate in upper classes;

(b) whether increasing the speed of trains on trunk routes would result in better and efficient re-deployment of the same rake; and

(c) what other measures are contemplated to effect cost reduction in railway operations for the coming year?

Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority

1299. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission has emphasized the need for setting up of a Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority to regulate business segment of the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures the Railways are taking to develop the rail infrastructure with the help of private partnership?

CAG report on railway bridges

1300. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CAG in its Report No. 9 of 2003 pertaining to Railways has stated that large number of existing railway bridges are between 80 to 100 years old and were constructed to handle only lighter standard of loading than prevalent, *i.e.*, there has been tremendous growth of load both in freight as well as passenger traffic since the construction of these bridges;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to strengthen the existing railway bridges to handle heavier load of freight and passenger; and

(c) what steps have been taken to replace these railway bridges?

Inquiry reports of accidents and bomb explosion in Shramjeevi Express

1301. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports of inquiries conducted into the accident of 12 May, 2002 in the Patna-bound Shramjeevi Express near Jaunpur (UP) and of the bomb explosion on 28 July, 2005 on the same train and also in Jaunpur, have been received by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not making these reports public yet;

(d) the action taken, if any, based on the findings of the respective inquiry Committees; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

Irregularities in Group 'D' recruitment examination in Railways

†1302. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that charges have been levelled for committing irregularities at a large scale in group 'D' recruitment examination of Railways conducted on 12th February, 2006;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the situation continued to be anarchic due to calling candidates in excess number and not issuing admit cards even at the eleventh hour;

(c) if so, details thereof;

(d) the details of the number of candidates who appeared in the examination all over the country State-wise; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) whether Railways propose to follow some transparent recruitment procedure to avoid controversies?

Upward revision in rail freight

1303. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether by adjusting classification of commodities Government have affected upward revision in rail freight;

(b) if so, the names of such commodities with volume of upward revision of tariff; and

(c) what have been the compulsions for the Railways to haphazardly increase in the tariff before the railway budget 2006-07?

Intercity day train between Hubli-Vasco

1304. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to run a superfast intercity day train between Hubli-Vasco to meet the demand of the business people and the general public; and

(b) if not, whether Government would consider introducing a superfast intercity day train between Hubli-Vasco?

Closing the movement of bogies/wagons from Amritsar to Pakistan

1305. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the movement of bogies/wagons which carry goods from Amritsar to Pakistan is closed during certain months of the year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that when the movement of bogies/wagons is stopped, the goods are sent through parcel in bogies;

(c) how much loss is suffered by the Railways when the goods are sent through parcel in bogies/wagons; and

(d) what steps are being taken to save this loss?

Introduction of Clean Train Station System

1306. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are considering to introduce a Clean Train Station System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways are considering to introduce a National Enquiry System; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Gauge conversion

1307. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of gauge conversion works going on at present in the country, Railway-zone-wise;

(b) the details of financial allocations made for this purpose during the Tenth Plan; and

(c) the total funds incurred, so far, on these projects in the country, Railway-zone-wise?

Completion of rail projects

1308. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of rail projects in respect of which construction work has started more than five years ago and only around 50 per cent of the total construction work have been completed, so far;

(b) if so, what are the number and the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have made any deadline to complete these projects earlier?

Kapurthala Coach Factory

1309. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Coach Factory at Kapurthala is fully competent enough to make the coaches;

(b) whether it is a fact that private firms have been given orders to supply the main portion of the coaches;

(c) what is the percentage of the production of a coach being actually done by the factory at Kapurthala; and

(d) what advantage is coming to Government due to this policy?

Rail bridges over Ganga and Kosi rivers

†1310. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of rail bridges being constructed at Patna and Munger on Ganga and Kosi rivers between Nirmali-Bhaptiyahi in Bihar;

(b) the respective estimated amount for the said three rail bridges of mega project and the amount spent on the same, so far; and

(c) the time-limit fixed for final completion of the said three bridges and the details thereof?

Introduction of tourist trains

1311. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to start about 100 tourist trains in the country on the lines on which 'Palace on Wheels' is being run;

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

(c) whether the fare would be charged in foreign currency;

(d) if so, the reasons for not charging the fare in Indian currency; and

(e) the details of the routes of these tourist trains?

Pending rail projects in Jharkhand and Bihar

†1312. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects pending in Jharkhand and Bihar;

(b) the reasons for delay in implementation of these projects; and

(c) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Implementation of Disability Act in Railways

1313. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have not got implemented the 10 years old Disability Act in Railways;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Railways are considering to prepare a list of jobs that can be provided to physically handicapped persons; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Container terminal in Madurai

1314. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether container terminal at Koodal Nagar in Madurai is not operational;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps to operate the container terminal at Madurai?

Meter gauge railway lines

1315. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total length of meter gauge railway lines in the country, as on 31st January, 2006;
- (b) the details of proposals formulated, so far, to convert these meter gauge lines into broad gauge line in the country;
- (c) if so, the details of implementation of the above proposals; and
- (d) the target date fixed by Government to complete this works?

Railway accidents in Andhra Pradesh

1316. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of railway accidents occurred in Andhra Pradesh in 2005;
- (b) the details of such accidents in each case;
- (c) the number of death toll and injured persons in each case;
- (d) whether Government had constituted any enquiry committee to look into such accidents, case-wise;
- (e) if so, details thereof;
- (f) whether the committee had submitted its report to Government;
- (g) if so, the details thereof;
- (h) whether Government had compensated the families of the victims who lost their lives; and
- (i) if so, the details of such compensation released/to be released in each case?

Increase in rail accidents

†1317. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of train accidents has increase during the last two years;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the reason behind these accidents is misuse of modern technique by the employees;
- (c) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to minimize the train accidents and also to check the misuse of modern technique by employees; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rail accidents

1318. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the there was a report which says that 6 accidents take place every week in India;

(b) if so, the steps taken by his Ministry from time to time; and

(c) the details about safety mechanism in place as of now?

Increase in speed of trains

1319. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have set a minimum bench mark of 55 km/hour for around 200 superfast trains today which are earning extra revenue through supplementary surcharge on fare;

(b) whether most of these superfast trains run on sectors served by Rajdhani/ Shatabdi the tracks for which have been upgraded for speeds beyond 100 km/hour; and

(c) whether Government would consider increasing the speed of these superfast trains to a minimum benchmark of 80 km per hour on such upgraded segments and thereby justify the extra surcharge levied and also to ensure efficient deployment of rakes on return journeys?

Disability Act, 1995

1320. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether disabled employees of Northern Railway held a candle light march recently in New Delhi demanding

implementation of the Disability Act, 1995 in the Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the Act; and

(c) the steps being taken to rectify the situation and meet their other demands?

Automatic Upgrade facility system for waitlisted passengers

1321. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways are considering to introduce an automatic upgrade facility system for the waitlisted passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that if implemented in all the trains the above system, the Railways are expected to earn huge revenue from it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Pit lines at Madurai

1322. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up three pit lines at Madurai railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Projects of South Central Railway

1323. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the railway projects sanctioned for South Central Railway during the last two years;

(b) the funds allocated and utilized by each project;

(c) the projects still incomplete despite having sufficient funds; and

(d) the specific reasons therefor?

Vacancies in Group D in safety category and RPF

1324. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 2000 vacancies in Group D in safety category and 3500 vacancies in RPF are lying vacant for long; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to acute shortage of staff, Station Masters are forced to perform commercial duties like sale of tickets, booking of parcels/goods, attending public queries, etc. causing lapses in train operations and compromising with safety of trains/operations?

Gauge conversion of Hassan-Mangalore rail line

1325. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project for conversion of the rail line between Hassan-Mangalore into broad gauge is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with reasons for such inordinate delay for completion of the project;

(c) whether delay is leading to escalation of cost and inconvenience to the public;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what measures are initiated for early completion of the project?

Rehabilitating displaced persons by VSP

1326. SHRINANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 3rd phase of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is under construction;

(b) whether Government are considering the jobs for all displaced persons whose lands have been acquired;

(c) the details of the displaced persons, category-wise and their age criteria; and

(d) if not, whether Government are considering for compensation for all the displaced persons who are not given job opportunities?

Rehabilitation of displaced persons from RSP

†1327. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum regarding solving the problem of those displaced from Rourkela Steel Plant at Orissa or has there been any agitation at local level in this regard;

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

(c) the way Government are involving the State Government with a view to solve the issue?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Dismantling of Clemeceau

1328. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement had been reached between the Governments of France and India, for dismantling of the asbestos laden decommissioned French

ship Clemeceau, with its hazardous waste in the form of toxic asbestos;

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

(c) whether the ship with toxic asbestos has been received for dismantling at the dismantling shipyard on Gujarat coast; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent contamination of Indian shipyard?

NEW DELHI;
The 25th February, 2006
Phalgun 6, 1927 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

I N D E X

(Ministry-wise)

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