

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 3, 2004/Agrahayana 12, 1926 (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 — 118

Drought relief to Kerala

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

(a) whether any proposal received from
Government of Kerala seeking drought
relief assistance from NCCF is pending
with Government for sanction, if so, the
details thereof;

(b) whether Government assessed the
loss sustained by deputing central team; if
so, the loss ascertained; and

(c) whether Government consider to
release the assistance sought by the State
Government; if so, the details thereof and
if not, the reasons therefor?

Zero field from NDU-1 urad seeds

184. SHRIEKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than
5,000 farmers across Uttar Pradesh were
supplied the wrong urad seeds for sowing
earlier this year;

(b) whether all the farmers who sowed
that seed called NDU-1 variety got zero
yield;

(c) whether the urad seeds for the Kharif
crop were supplied to farmers as Zayad
seeds;

(d) if so, whether Government have
done any investigations in this regard;
and

(e) if so, whether the affected farmers
would be given any compensation?

Promoting Organic seeds of Rajasthan

185. SHRIEKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the
Jhunjhunu district in Rajasthan will now
showcase its completely organic lentils,
tulsi and peas in food shelves across the
West;

(b) whether it is a fact that these
opportunities are opened up for the farmers
of the State, as the international agency
SGS has inspected, tested and certified
them as organic products; and

(c) if so, how the Ministry proposes to promote organic farming on a much larger scale across India?

National Drought Policy

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

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a 'National Drought Policy' in view of successive droughts in several parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

MSP for Rabi Crops

187. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this year Government have announced the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Rabi Crops well before the arrival of farm produce in the market; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such departure from usual practice of announcing the MSP after the arrival of crops in the market?

Expansion of NCDC

188. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to expand National Co-operative Development Corporation, in order to work out a vibrant co-operative structure;

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

(c) what are the existing problems being faced by this sector and the action plan of Government to redress these issues?

Impact of global warming on rice production

189. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the recent findings that the global warming has cut rice harvest by atleast 10 per cent whereas the rice production has to rise by one per cent every year;

(b) whether this trend will affect Indian farmers; and

(c) the details of rice production in the country during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise?

Expansion of KVKs in States

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

(a) whether Government propose to expand Krishi Vigyan Kendras in States, in view of giving priority to agriculture sector under common minimum programme of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the States, where expansion is proposed and whether Andhra Pradesh is also among them?

Agricultural credit and farm produce prices

191. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the categorical statement of the Prime Minister that concrete steps were being taken to address the problems of agricultural credit and farm produce prices, whether any modalities have been evolved to achieve this objective;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any monitoring mechanism has been established to keep a watch on the progress; and
- (d) if so, the periodicity thereof?

**Constitution of Expert Committee on
Agricultural Commission**

192. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to constitute an Expert Committee on Agricultural Commission to study agrarian crisis on account of scanty rain-fall in certain parts of the country and suggest measures to overcome it; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Reforms in agriculture sector

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

- (a) whether Government propose to introduce reforms in the agriculture sector with the intention to step up investments and remove untoward controls in farming;
- (b) if so, by when they are to be introduced along with the complete details thereof; and
- (c) in what manner the proposed reforms in the Agriculture sector would help the overall performance of the farm sector in terms of investment, marketing and production?

Costs of items at Mother Dairy outlets

194. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vegetables and fruits available at Mother Dairy outlets in Delhi are costlier than the prevailing market rates; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide quality product at reasonable rates to consumers?

**National Institute for research and
development of tropical fruits**

†195. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, keeping in view the need of research and development in the field of tropical fruits, any national institute is being established;
- (b) whether some places in Uttaranchal were considered for the said research institute;
- (c) if so, whether the then Minister of Agriculture had given an assurance for opening one Centre of the said institute in Uttaranchal; and
- (d) if so, the details of action being taken in this regard?

**Assistance to Pig farming scheme of
Chhattisgarh**

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

- (a) whether Government have received any proposal during August-September, 2003 for a Pig Farming Scheme for the female beneficiaries in order to improve the financial condition of the families belonging to the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in the Naxalite infested regions of Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when the required funds would be granted to the State Government for this scheme?

Suicides by farmers in Karnataka

197. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instances of farmers' suicides have of late recorded a steep increase in Karnataka particularly in the Hasan district since April, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government has failed to settle the crop insurance claims in time which forced the farmers to approach the money lenders;

(d) the other reasons for such an abnormal increase in the incidents of suicides in Karnataka; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Central Government to improve the situation?

Deputing farmers for cultivating abroad

†198. SHRIRAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers of the country are being deputed to certain countries of the world for cultivation;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government for protecting the interests of the farmers deputed in this regard?

Assistance to drought affected States

†199. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of drought ridden States during 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) loss of life and property in each State caused as a result thereof;

(c) the quantum of financial assistance asked for by the each affected States and the same actually provided to them; and

(d) the reasons for not providing the assistance as per the demand and whether the remaining assistance is likely to be provided in near future?

Illegal trade in orchid industry

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

(a) whether Government are aware of growing trade of orchids smuggled into India from Thailand thereby posing a threat to nascent orchid industry in the North-eastern States;

(b) whether this illegal trade is facilitated by India's plant quarantine norms which are not stringent; and

(c) what measures are being taken to protect the domestic orchid industry through prevention of illegal entry of inferior orchids from Thailand?

Schemes and programmes for farmers

†201. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes, programmes and targets for the upliftment and development of farmers formulated by Government during the Ninth Five Year Plan and during the last two years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have achieved the said targets;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the schemes and programmes formulated by Government for the overall development of the farmers during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Capital formation in agriculture sector

202. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steady decline in capital formation in agriculture sector in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons, if any, identified for the decline; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to reverse the trend?

Subsidy for Rabi production

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

(a) whether Government have approved a scheme for giving subsidy to the farmers in the country to boost production of Rabi (Winter) crops for the year 2004-05; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which production of Rabi food-grains is expected to increase as a result thereof, as compared to the production of two previous Rabi crops?

Development of healthier variant of mustard oil

204. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint team of Scientists of Delhi University and National Dairy Development Board have developed a healthier variant of mustard oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new variant has been subjected to laboratory test and found fit for consumption; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be cleared for field trials and made available for sale in the market?

New pricing scheme for phosphate and potassic fertilizers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have evolved a new pricing scheme for phosphate and potassic fertilizers;

(b) how the new scheme is expected to help the indigenous manufacturers;

(c) what is the annual production and demand of the DAP in the country during the last five years, year-wise; and

(d) the annual supply of DAP in the country during the last five years, year-wise?

Bringing patented medicines under price control

†206. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to bring the patented medicines under the purview of price control to keep a check on the profits of the companies so that such medicines could reach the general public of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Uniform MRP system for medicines

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has formulated a proposal to introduce a uniform MRP system for medicines sold in retail;

(b) if so, how the Ministry is co-ordinating with the States to have a uniform sales tax/MRP on medicines;

(c) whether any meeting of the Health Ministers of States has been convened before taking a final view on the subject; and

(d) if so, the details of the outcome?

Package for FACT, Kerala

208. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a package was admitted by the Central

Government and State Government of Kerala for reviving the FACT;

(b) the extent to which the package has been implemented, so far, by the Central Government and the State Government;

(c) whether concessions promised by Government of Kerala was implemented fully; and

(d) the steps proposed to be initiated by Government to sustain the FACT in the public sector?

Irrational combinations

209. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of various irrational combinations being sold;

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

(c) the action being taken by DCGI to ban these irrational combinations?

Monitoring of prices of essential and life saving drugs

210. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of some essential and life saving drugs have gone up creating a lot of inconvenience to the general public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any Government agency in place to monitor the prices of drugs from time to time and if so, steps taken by it to control and contain the prices of essential drugs; and

(d) the role of NPPA in this context?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Amendments to ECA

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

(a) whether the Essential Commodities Act (ECA) of 1955 has any relevance in 2004, as what was "Essential" in 1955 may not necessarily be essential in 2004;

(b) whether Government are thinking of scrapping the ECA and whether, in the wake of Common Minimum Programme of UPA Government, this will be possible;

(c) whether any study has been made to evolve modalities in the present scenario to effectively meet the objectives envisaged at the time ECA was enacted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Infrastructure for FCI in W.B.

212. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal has requested Government to create necessary infrastructure, including storing place for F.C.I.; and

(b) if so, the action taken, so far, thereon?

Sugar Factories in Karnataka

213. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how many sugar factories are there in Karnataka under various sectors/category, namely Government, Private and co-operative sector;

(b) how many factories are sick or profit making;

(c) whether it is a fact that sugarcane growers of Karnataka are selling their sugarcane in the neighbouring States, like Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra etc. where selling prices of sugarcane is high; and

(d) whether Government are planning to have a uniform price for sugarcane under the new Sugar/Agriculture policy all over the country?

Reforms in infrastructure and activities of FCI

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has assigned the task of suggesting measures for comprehensive reforms in structure and activities of Food Corporation of India to various institutions during the last five years;

(b) if so, the names of the institutions to which Government had assigned such task from January, 1999 to October, 2004 and when;

(c) the time when each institution had submitted its report to Government; and

(d) the action Government had taken with regard to said Corporation on the basis of suggestions made and when?

Freedom in trading of foodgrains

215. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

remove the grip of the States on trading of foodgrains and give farmers freedom to market their products with provision for a safety net;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to establish a chain of rural and periurban godowns with warehousing foodgrain banking facilities to help farmers to store and sell through the warehouses?

Outstanding amount for sugarcane growers

†216. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States were provided with special amount for the disbursement of outstanding amount to be paid by sugar mills to sugarcane growers;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the amount provided for this purpose alongwith the conditions stipulated in this regard;

(c) whether the sugarcane growers have been provided with their outstanding amount by making the said amount available to the sugar mills for the disbursement to the sugarcane growers by all the State Governments as per consultations including the State of Uttaranchal; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Indulgence of FPS in black marketing

217. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Fair Price

Shops meant for serving food grains to weaker sections of the society are indulging in black marketing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against guilty ones?

Decreasing number of vultures

†218. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of vultures in the country has been decreasing continuously;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to save this species?

Depletion of forest cover

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is considerable depletion of forest cover in the country over the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same and effects thereof; and

(c) what measures are contemplated to increase the green cover and check environmental degradation?

Model botanical survey

†220. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guideline of model botanical survey has been drawn up;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Data base of herbs

†221. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any data-base of herbs has been prepared in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Threat to wild life due to clearing of forests

222. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several wild life lovers and environmentalists have expressed concern over the increasing threat to wild life due to the clearing of forest for development projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have received a representation in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the record in protecting wild life from destructive development and commercial pressures has gone from bad to worse; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Environment clearance of constructions in Sabarimala

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

(a) whether any proposal is pending with Government seeking environmental clearance for the projects of constructions

of retaining walls, queue complexes, parking facilities, latrine blocks etc. in Sabarimala;

(b) whether Government accorded clearance for the project; and

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

Environment clearance to development projects

224. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to formulate a new procedure for granting environment clearance to development projects;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the States are opposed to these reforms;

(c) if so, the details of objections of these individual States; and

(d) the action plan of the Centre to resolve the issue?

Withholding the National Biodiversity strategy and action plan

225. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have withheld the release of the National Biodiversity Strategy and action plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to revive the action plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Tree-bank

†226. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there exists a tree-bank in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the significance of a tree-bank in reference to botanical survey?

Natural resources of Jharkhand

227. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Jharkhand comprises of large forest areas which are reservoirs of high quality wood apart from precious minerals and coal;
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted with a view to ascertain the extent of natural resources of the State;
- (c) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Forests and tree cover

228. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the present forest and tree cover in the country is 23.03 per cent;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that an additional 6.4 million hectares of forest and tree cover is required for achieving the 25 per cent forest cover target by 2007 and 33 per cent by 2012;
- (c) whether it is a fact that a total of 33.60 million hectares of land is required for the purpose whereas Government could

make available only 4.2 million hectares; and

- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the shortfall and to achieve the target?

Developing bamboo market

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to develop the bamboo market and to set up a National Bamboo Development Board for the purpose;
- (b) if so, the details of the project;
- (c) areas where the bamboo plantation is proposed to be taken up; and
- (d) whether the project would create additional job opportunities, if so, details thereof?

Recycling of imported electronic scrap

230. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether electronic scrap sent from England is being recycled in the country releasing both permanent pollution and irreversible health damage; and
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to stop such import in public interest?

Assistance to Rajasthan and Punjab for environmental projects

231. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any financial assistance has been provided by Government to the States

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of Rajasthan and Punjab for development and promotion of environment projects during the last two years;

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

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

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Guidelines for using animals in scientific experiments

232. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has formulated guidelines for using animals in scientific experiments;

(b) whether the Ministry has also proposed an amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Pollution causing industries in Rajasthan and Punjab

233. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pollution causing industries in Rajasthan and Punjab; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government against pollution causing units in these two States?

Compensation for non-exploitation of forests

†234. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States including Madhya Pradesh have asked for compensation due to non-exploitation of forest wealth; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

Ecological disaster due to grounding of cargo vessel, River Princess

235. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cargo vessel "River Princess" was grounded at Candolim Beach, Goa in 2000; and

(b) the efforts Government have made to remove this to avoid ecological disaster for fishermen and tourists?

Inundation of Damanganga Reservoir Project area

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

(a) whether large areas of forest land have been submerged due to construction of Damanganga Reservoir Project in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total areas inundated and the total number of persons displaced;

(c) whether proper rehabilitation schemes have been drawn up and implemented; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pollution around Taj

237. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 1st day of 350th Anniversary of Taj Mahal on 27th September, 2004 experienced suspended particulate matters (SPM) level in air at 317.75 micro grams per cubic metre, more than three times of permitted level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to avoid pollution around Taj Mahal?

Setting up of food parks

†238. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food parks targeted to be set up during the current Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of food parks established so far, State-wise;

(c) whether there is any proposal to sanction food parks during the current financial year for those States where no food parks are established so far; and

(d) if so, the names of places in Uttaranchal where such food parks are targeted to be established?

UK's assistance for tackling AIDS

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

(a) whether it is a fact that UK has offered 1.5 billion pounds for tackling AIDS in India;

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

(c) what is the extent of AIDS menace in the country; and

(d) the details of fresh initiatives undertaken to control the disease?

Setting up of hospitals

240. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN:

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:

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

(a) the details of hospitals run by Government in the country;

(b) the number of hospitals set up and funded partially/fully by the Centre in the country, State-wise;

(c) the details of Centrally funded/sponsored hospitals being set up/likely to be set up in the country;

(d) what is the criteria for setting up a Centrally funded hospital in a State; and

(e) whether Government will open speciality hospitals for the benefit of the poor?

Establishing multi-speciality hospitals

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

(a) whether Government propose to establish major national level multi-speciality hospitals of the type of AIIMS, New Delhi, in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with proposed location, financial allocation, present status of each of the project and the targeted date for their completion;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the criteria adopted for deciding on the location of the project;

(d) whether it is a fact that aspects like need and regional balance have not been taken into account while deciding on the locations; and

(e) if so, how this anomaly is proposed to be corrected?

Compilation of HIV data

242. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether official data of HIV infected people in India are being doubted by Geneva based global fund to fight AIDS;

(b) the action proposed to compile HIV data by an independent body; and

(c) the efforts proposed to step up the programme to fight the disease?

World Bank assistance to Maharashtra for medical education

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

(a) whether Government had, on May 14, 2001, asked the State Government of Maharashtra to send a proposal to seek World Bank assistance for strengthening the quality of medical education and improving the physical infrastructure of Government Medical Colleges and attached hospitals of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent the proposals in this regard to Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present status thereto?

Apex Court's ruling on negligence of doctor leading to patient's disability/death

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

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has recently ruled that an error of judgement on the part of the doctor leading to a patient's permanent disability or death would not render the doctor liable to criminal proceedings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that the said ruling has led to a sense of panic and helplessness among the public;

(d) if so, whether Government would prefer a review petition against the judgement and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what other steps are proposed to allay the public misapprehensions in this regard?

Import of contaminated blood from UK

245. SHRIMATIS. G. INDIRA: SHRITARIQ ANWAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that blood product samples contaminated with the human form of the mad cow disease had been imported into India from Britain;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have ordered the Drug Controller of India to investigate the matter in view of its seriousness; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Minimising maternal deaths

246. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to adopt any special drive to minimise the maternal deaths, the number of which in India is reported to be highest in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government for providing an accessible and affordable healthcare facility for pregnant women in rural and remote areas?

Increasing private hospitals and clinics

†247. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of private hospitals and clinics is on the rise day by day throughout the country;

(b) whether the present norms for giving licenses to such clinics and hospitals are adequate;

(c) whether such hospitals and clinics have been given a free hand for taking arbitrary fees from patients;

(d) whether Government propose to frame any law relating to fixation of fee for such hospitals and clinics; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Bill for regulating private clinics

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

(a) whether Government propose to draft a model Bill for regulation of private clinics in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

AIDS review of Epidemic

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the deadly disease AIDS has penetrated deep into the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Manipur and Nagaland and some other States with high population, like U.P., Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, have also become 'highly vulnerable', causing national and international concern;

(b) if so, the details of any recent review undertaken to assess the prevalence of the epidemic in different parts of the country; and

(c) the details of short/long term steps being taken for prevention and control of the infectious disease?

National Health Insurance Plan

250. 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 National Advisory Council has recommended to the GoI for a National Health Insurance Plan;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed National Health Insurance Policy;

(c) whether it is also a fact that according to the proposed policy Rs. 150-200 needs to be paid by the policy holder; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Rotary International Presidential Polio Summit

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

(a) the conclusions arrived at in the two day long Rotary International Presidential Polio Summit, 2004 recently held in Delhi;

(b) the details of the strategy of Government to attain zero polio status by the end of this year; and

(c) the number of polio cases in the country, State-wise?

Breakthrough in cure for Tuberculosis

252. 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 Indian scientists have made a breakthrough in the cure of Tuberculosis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the newly developed drug will reduce the treatment duration of Tuberculosis from the present 6-8 months to two months;

(c) if so, whether the DCGI has cleared the new drug;

(d) if so, by when the clinical trials are going to be completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

Family welfare and rural health care scheme

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

(a) the quantum of amount Government

have allotted to implement the family welfare and rural health care scheme during the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the details of expenditure made from out of the said amount State-wise/year-wise;

(c) the role, the N.G.Os. working in States have to play in this regard and whether Government have received any concrete proposal in this regard by anyone of them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Incentives to check the population growth

†254. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any plan to check the unabated population growth in the country through any incentive;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allocation to hospitals for procuring critical medical equipments

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

(a) the total allocation made to Centrally administered hospitals in Delhi and other States for procurement of critical medical equipment during the last three years; year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the amount spent by each of the hospitals during the same period;

(c) whether any report has been received by Government regarding the patients dying in the Central Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Hospitals either for want of or non-functional critical equipment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken to fix responsibility and the measures taken to prevent such incidents in the future?

Eradication of Filariasis

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

(a) whether Government are embarking upon eradication of the Killer disease "Filariasis", as this leads to grotesquely enlarged arms, legs, genitalia, breasts etc;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that out of 128 million people suffering from this disease, about 40% of them are in India;

(c) how the Government propose to tackle this gigantic task, and what financial outlay is likely to be allocated; and

(d) whether Central Government would play an effective role in this eradication programme by constant periodical monitoring and taking corrective action thereof?

Trauma Centre at AIIMS

†257. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Trauma Centre at All India Institute of Medical Sciences is ready for use for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons for its not being operational so far; and

(c) the details of arrangement being made to make it operational immediately and by when it would be operational?

Lack of buildings at PHCs

†258. SHRIMATIMAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that health services are not being provided properly due to lack of buildings required for smooth functioning of primary health services in various rural areas of the country;

(b) whether Government propose to provide economic aid to the States in the coming years;

(c) if so, by when the aid is proposed to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Family Welfare Schemes

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

(a) the details of implementation of various Family Welfare Schemes falling under the control of the Department of Women and Child Development in the various States of the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that there have been some irregularities in the implementation of these schemes; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

Stopping illegal foetus examination and female foeticide

†260. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued stringent directions to hospitals and clinics to stop illegal foetus examination and female foeticide;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action that will be taken by Government in case any incident of female foeticide takes place in any clinic or hospital in spite of the said directions?

Ad-hocism at AIIMS

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

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Institute of Medical Sciences continues to reel under the agony of ad-hocism as there are no regular officers on several important posts like cardio-thoracic vascular surgery centre;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even at the administrative level, the Institute is faced with an extraordinary type of adhocism from Deputy Director (A) to Medical Superintendent; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and when regular appointments would be made?

Two child norms

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided not to impose two-child norm in the country;

(b) whether it will amount to violation of Fundamental Rights if two-child norm is imposed in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) how Government are going to achieve the goal of population control through population stabilisation programme on voluntary basis; and

(e) whether Government propose to amend the National Population Policy?

Circulation of spurious drugs

263. SHRIS.S. AHLUWALIA:
DR. PRABHATHAKUR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that instances of circulation of spurious drugs have been growingly coming to light;

(b) if so, the details of complaints registered by affected consumers with the authorities and sources of circulations uncovered, if any, by enforcement agencies, year-wise, during the last five years;

(c) whether any survey has been carried out by Government with a view to ascertain the spurious drugs menace in all its dimensions;

(d) if so, the finding thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what were the salient observations and recommendations made in 2003 by the Committee headed by R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR, in this regard?

Deaths of patients in AIIMS

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

(a) whether it is a fact that about three thousand patients die every year in Delhi's well-known All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

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

(c) whether Government would take any effective steps to provide free emergency medical facilities in all the Government hospitals, private hospitals and nursing homes; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of procedure for conducting surprise inspection/check in the Government hospitals?

Shortage of PHCs in the country

†265. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute shortage of primary health centres in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) total number of primary health centres in the country at present;

(d) whether there is acute shortage of health related facilities in the primary health centres in the country; and

(e) if so, steps proposed to be taken by Government to overcome the shortage?

Integrated Disease Surveillance Project

266. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANARAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of appointing a private consultant to determine the exact number of AIDS patients in the country;

(b) if so, by when Government are going to launch Integrated Disease Surveillance Project; and

(c) the States which are going to be covered under the project?

Removal of authorised chemists from CGHS

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

(a) the details of chemists whose names have been removed from the authorized chemist list of CGHS in Delhi during the year, 2004; and the reasons thereof, case-wise;

(b) whether alternative arrangements have been made for the above cancelled authorized chemists for the benefit of the CGHS beneficiaries including pensioners;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Vacancies in Safdarjung Hospital

268. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that vacancies in medical and non-medical categories of Safdarjung Hospital have not been filled up for a long time;

(b) if so, the number thereof separately, and what is the reason therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have been directed by the Delhi High Court to immediately fill up the vacancies; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and steps taken thereon?

NCW's suggestions on population policy

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

(a) whether National Commission for Women (NCW) expressed their concern over the cohesive population policy of Government;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the complete details of NCW's suggestions on the population policy; and

(c) action taken or proposed to be taken by Government on the suggestions of the NCW?

Substandard medicines of M/s Kooper Pharma, Delhi

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of medicines manufactured by M/s Kooper Pharma, Delhi were found to be substandard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against the company?

Progress of HIV programmes

271. SHRI K. RAMAMOHANARAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the world's largest number of HIV infected people; and

(b) if so, the reasons for HIV/AIDS programme not making progress inspite of several international agencies donating millions of dollars into anti HIV programmes?

Supply of condoms at GB Road

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

(a) whether it is a fact that inmates of brothels at GB Road, Delhi have not received condoms for the last five months as a response of AIDS Prevention Programme;

(b) if so, the role of NACO which is spending Rs. 780 crores in this regard; and

(c) the measures proposed by the Union Government to control AIDS by tackling such vulnerable brothels/colonies?

Under staffing at CGHS dispensary, Janak Puri -I (No. 61)

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

(a) whether C.G.H.S. dispensary, Janak Puri-I (No. 61) in New Delhi, which is a polyclinic, functions for 12 hours daily with emergent services for night and holidays, is badly under-staffed;

(b) the total number of cardholders including the pensioners registered there and the number of doctors posts sanctioned for the dispensary;

(c) the number of doctors required for the dispensary, according to the norms laid down; and

(d) by when full strength of the doctors in this dispensary would be made available?

Health schemes for Karnataka

274. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally sponsored health schemes formulated and being implemented in Karnataka State during the last three years;

(b) the details of the funds allocated, released and actually utilised under the scheme during the above period, district-wise; and

(c) the details of the achievements made in this regard?

Banning pain killer Roficoxib

275. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the popular pain killer-Roficoxib has recently been banned in the United States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has also been banned in our country by Government on the recommendation of an Expert Group;

(d) if so, the names of the companies who were manufacturing this medicine;

(e) whether Government are aware that this medicine is still available in the shops; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken against those selling this banned drug?

Changes in the Mental Health Policy

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking of bringing drastic changes in the Mental Health Policy of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) machinery created for implementation of the above policy?

Drinking water facility at hospitals in Delhi

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

(a) whether it is a fact that hospitals in Delhi do not have proper drinking water facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

Construction of rail lines in Uttaranchal

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that initial survey has been conducted in Uttaranchal for the construction of a number of rail lines during the last 25 years;

(b) if so, the details of the names of proposed rail lines along with the year of survey;

(c) whether some of the above said lines are proposed to be constructed during the current Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons for neglecting the development of Uttaranchal?

Stampede at New Delhi Railway Station

†279. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of stampede occurred at New Delhi Railway Station during November, 2004 and what were the reasons for the occurrence of each incident;

(b) the details of effective steps taken by Government after occurrence of the first incident and the reasons for recurrence of the incident again;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) details of the lives and property of passengers lost in each incident; and

(d) the arrangement made by Government to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in future?

Incidents of fire in railway coaches

280. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the incidents of fire in Railway coaches while running/standing at station yards during the last two years and till date this year, zone-wise, year-wise and train-wise;

(b) the loss suffered by the railways in these fire incidents, train-wise;

(c) the number of persons booked for sabotage activities along with the number of members of railway staff and RPF booked for negligence in these fire incidents;

(d) by when investigation is likely to be completed in all these fire incidents; and

(e) the measures taken to check the recurrence of such fire incidents?

Details of vacancies in the post of General Manager

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

(a) the details of posts of General Managers lying vacant in various zones of the Indian Railways;

(b) since when each G.M. post is lying vacant;

(c) what steps Government are taking to fill the vacancies in various zones of the country; and

(d) the details of General Managers

holding additional charge and who are on ad hoc basis?

Collaboration with Japan

282. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANARAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Railways in collaboration with Japan is working on a project to introduce high-speed magnetic trains in the country;

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

(c) whether any delegation/officials from Japan visited India in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the discussions held between India and Japan?

Shortage of wagons

283. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of wagons and Railways have not been able to meet the full requirement of wagons for various commodities including coal, iron ore and foodgrains for export and transportation of cement;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the licensed capacity of various wagon manufacturing units and the number of wagons produced in them during the last three years?

Bifurcation of the Trivandrum-Palakkad Railway Division

284. 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 bifurcate the Trivandrum and Palakkad railway divisions for setting up a new division in Salem, Tamil Nadu;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways also plan to create more railway divisions; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

International rail corridor

285. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a feasibility study has been undertaken to create an international rail-corridor to link India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the pattern of funding the project, and its present status?

Increase in tatkal charges

286. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have taken a decision to make an increase in the 'tatkal charges' payable by passengers undertaking journey at short notice;
- (b) if so, the details in regard thereto;
- (c) the reasons and justification for steep increase in the 'tatkal charges';
- (d) whether the Railways have also taken a decision to discontinue with the practice of attaching 'tatkal coaches';
- (e) if so, the manner in which the passengers purchasing tickets at short notice are likely to be accommodated in trains; and
- (f) the trains for which tickets at short notice shall not be issued?

New technology in S&T meant for level crossings

287. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are implementing new technology in S&T system, which provides warnings to road users at level crossings to control rail accidents;

- (b) if so, the details of the project; and
- (c) the details of manned and unmanned level crossings which have, so far, been covered and success so far received after implementation of the system?

Proposals for construction of new rail lines in Maharashtra

288. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and other particulars of proposals for construction of new rail lines, doubling/widening of existing railway lines, received from the Government of Maharashtra, which are pending for consideration and approval of the Central Government;
- (b) when these proposals were received from the Government of Maharashtra; and
- (c) the present status of each of these proposals and when a final decision is likely to be taken thereon?

Revival of railway wagon manufacturing units

289. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether railway wagon manufacturing units are being revived;
- (b) if so, the cumulative loss of the units to be waived; and
- (c) the action taken to modernise the units to prevent further loss?

Development of model railway stations

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways have decided to develop 317 stations out of 8000 stations as model stations by March, 2005;

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

(c) the details of stations that have been identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the total number of stations developed as model stations in the country?

Permission for goods transport

291. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission has not been given for goods transports in the newly introduced Bodi-Coimbatore train in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when, the permission is likely to be given taking into account the Bodi's biggest cardamom trade with other parts of the country?

Cell phones to train drivers

292. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide cell phones to train drivers to make travel safe;

(b) if so, the details of the project and how far will it help to control rail accidents; and

(c) the details of rail routes to be covered to begin with?

Surprise checks of baggage by RPF

293. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many passengers who carry inflammable materials with them concealed in their baggage;

(b) if so, whether RPF is entitled to conduct surprise baggage checks at all major railway stations;

(c) if so, the number of checks conducted by RPF at Delhi stations in the last one year and the details of questionable/objectionable items confiscated by the RPF during these surprise checks; and

(d) how many cases were booked after such checks for questionable/objectionable items?

Construction of bridge near Azamgarh

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the Railways have conducted a survey to construct bridge over the Belaisa Crossing near Azamgarh Railway Station at Azamgarh district of U.P.; and

(b) if so, by when the construction work thereof is likely to be started on the basis of the survey report?

Vacancies in the Railways

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways propose to fill up about 8000 vacancies in the next two years;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of vacancies that are going to be filled in Group A, B, C & D Grades;

(c) the details of vacancies to be filled in the next two years, zone-wise; and

(d) the details of reserved vacancies out of the above, zone-wise?

Connecting Hajira Port to hinterland

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) looking at industrial growth of the area around Hajira Port, whether the Ministry of Railways propose to connect Hajira Port to its hinterland;

(b) whether Government propose to extend the siding track of Kribhco up to Hajira; and

(c) if so, the proposed time-frame for completion of the same?

Replacement of level-crossings in Uttar Pradesh

297. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of level crossings in Uttar Pradesh as on 31st March, 2004 which qualify for replacement with road over bridge/road under bridge on 50 per cent cost sharing basis with the State Government/concerned local bodies;

(b) whether any specific level crossings for replacement have been identified; if so, the locations thereof;

(c) whether any plan for the purpose has been drawn for the next three years; and

(d) if so, the funds required to be made available by the State Government/concerned local bodies over the said period, separately, by the State Government and the concerned local bodies?

Introduction of high-speed bullet trains between metros

298. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously considering introduction of high-speed bullet trains between metro cities by building a dedicated fenced rail-corridor particularly between Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Japanese lenders have evinced keen interest in the project; and

(d) whether the feasibility study on the project has been completed and if so, the projected capital outlay and the time-frame for execution?

Railway division at Salem or Coimbatore

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

(a) whether it is a fact that substantial portion of Railways in Erode, Coimbatore and Salem districts fall under Palghat divisions;

(b) if so, whether there are practical and administrative difficulties due to this;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to create a separate division either at Salem or at Coimbatore;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Demolition of French Aircraft Carrier

300. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that decommissioned and rusty French Aircraft Carrier Clemenceau with possible hazardous substances on board is coming to Indian shores for demolition after the removal of asbestos from the ship;

(b) if so, whether necessary and adequate precautions have been taken so that its demolition would not be an environmental hazard, endangering sea life and contaminating atmosphere; and

(c) the compelling circumstances which contributed to our decision for allowing Indian shores for its demolition?

NEW DELHI;
The 27th November, 2004
Agrahayana 6, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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(Ministry-wise)

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