

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 4, 2005/Phalguna 13, 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 — 155

Locust control

456. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has recently cautioned India against a possible invasion of locusts from the Pakistani territory in the coming months and asked India and Pakistan to jointly carry out surveys well before the possible onslaught; and

(b) if so, the details of the warnings received and preventive measures taken to deal with the eventuality?

Construction of houses for fishermen

457. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are continuing the scheme of construction of houses to houseless fishermen under Centrally sponsored scheme, Development of Model Fishermen Village during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in releasing the balance Central share; and

(c) the time by which this balance share is likely to be released to Karnataka Government?

Shortfall in grain production

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

(a) whether Government have since revised its target for grain production this year downwards by about 20 million tonnes for both kharif and rabi crops;

(b) whether the pulse production is also set to record a lower output by about two million tonnes below the set target of 15.30 million tonnes;

(c) whether the coarse cereal production is also falling below targets over the years; and

(d) if so, the proposed measures to meet the shortfall?

Replanting coconut in Tsunami affected areas

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

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of coconut plantations have been uprooted due to the recent Tsunami wave in South India;

(b) whether any effort has been made to supply coconut seedlings and resources to farmers to replant their land;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) how many such acres of coconut land has been replanted recently with Government's help; and

(e) the steps proposed to expedite this replanting of fields of coconut trees?

Conference of State Agriculture Ministers

460. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the short supply of fertilizers for rabi sowing and outlook for kharif, dominated meeting of State Agriculture Ministers convened by the Centre;

(b) if so, whether the meeting also discussed the Horticulture Mission proposals;

(c) whether the Ministry has sought about Rs.6500 crores for next two years with a heavy subsidy component for Horticulture;

(d) whether prospect of kharif crop and also steps to be taken to improve rabi crop were discussed and a final decision was taken; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Preservation and increasing cattle

461. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when the last Cattle Census was done; the details of its finding regarding the animal population, like buffaloes, cows, goats, horses, sheeps, camels etc., State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent of our cow and buffalo breeds are of inferior quality; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to preserve and increase Indian breed of cows, gir and kankarej?

DMS booths as STD booths

†462. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DMS milk booths in Delhi are being misused and these are being used for STD booths and sale of cigarettes;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to prevent it; and

(c) the details thereof?

Crop loss in Tsunami affected States

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

(a) whether in the recent Tsunami disaster, the farmers of affected States have lost their entire crops;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total amount of crops destroyed due to Tsunami in the affected States; State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to help the farmers of the affected States who have incurred heavy losses due to the tidal waves?

Foodgrain production

464. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of productivity of major foodgrains in the country as compared to that of developed countries;

(b) the reasons for lesser foodgrain productivity in the country; and

(c) the steps to increase foodgrain productivity in the country?

Uncertainty in agricultural production

†465. DR. MURLI MANOHAR-JOSHI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the factors which lead to uncertainty in agri-production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the deadline fixed to do away with these causes?

Compensation for fishermen loosing fishing craft and equipment

466. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to compensate the fishermen who have lost their fishing crafts and equipments;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that these vessels are owned by the bosses/businessmen of these fishermen;

(c) if so, whether the compensation would eventually find its way to shadow owners and not to these poor fishermen; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to assist the real victims?

GDP target for agriculture

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether target for contribution of agriculture sector in gross domestic product was set during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the contribution of agriculture sector in gross domestic product has been assessed to be only 20.53 per cent during 2004-05;

(d) if not, the facts thereof; and

(e) the reasons for the contribution being 20.53 per cent which is below the target fixed for Tenth Five Year Plan?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sugar prices and Tuteja Committee

468. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been continuous increase in sugar prices;

(b) whether country's sugar output is likely to fall to 13.8 mt. during the previous fiscal;

(c) whether the Tuteja Committee for Restructuring of Sugar Industry has recommended that Government should withdraw itself from the release mechanism for free-sale sugar from October 1, 2005 and has suggested that regulated sugar industry should itself decide free-sale sugar quota for each month; and

(d) if so, the other steps Government propose to take to check increase of sugar prices and also implement suggestions made by the Tuteja Committee?

Research centre for quality cotton

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

(a) the details of efforts being made by Government for the cultivation of world level quality cotton in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to establish a Cotton Research Centre in the country; and

(c) in what manner, the information about good quality varieties of cotton is transmitted to cotton growers?

Drought in Karnataka

470. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that out of 176 taluks, 98 recorded below normal rainfall in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government had sent any Memorandum seeking fresh assistance from Government;

(c) if so, the amount of financial assistance, sought for;

(d) whether any Central Team has been sent to the State and if so, whether the team has submitted its report; and

(e) the amount, if any, released to the State in this regard?

MSP for cotton

471. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for cotton is remunerative for the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the mechanism to work out the MSP;

(c) whether the MSP is reviewed periodically and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether farmers in the cotton growing areas are taken into confidence while determining the MSP and if not, the reasons therefor?

Competent authority to decide MSP for cotton

472. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of competent authority to decide Minimum Support Price for cotton;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the essential quantity of cotton that would be procured by Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and other Government agencies during the next one year; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to revise the import duty on cotton and if so, the details thereof?

Testing of coca cola as pesticide

†473. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 844 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th December, 2004 and state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any scientific tests with regard to spraying coca cola and pepsi on crops to kill harmful insects to ascertain as to what extent such spraying is successful on crops; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not carrying out scientific tests on such spraying and the reasons for delay in the said tests?

Withdrawal of insurance schemes

†474. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to withdraw Crop Insurance Scheme and National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (N.A.I.S.) 'Farm Income Insurance Scheme', 'Rain Insurance Scheme' etc;

(b) if so, the reasons for withdrawing the same;

(c) if not, whether these schemes are being amended; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposed amendments?

Closing the Kisan Call Centres

†475. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have closed the Kisan Call Centres providing agriculture related information;

(b) if so, the reasons for closing these centres;

(c) whether Government have made any alternative arrangement for providing information related to agriculture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Crop loss in Vidarbha

476. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the heavy loss to crops in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra due to heavy rains and hailstorms this year in winter season;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have provided any relief to the farmers of Vidarbha to compensate them for loss of crops due to this natural calamity?

Joint declaration by farmers' association

477. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about forty farmers' associations from across the country in a Joint Declaration in December 2004 have demanded a separate budget on Agriculture on the lines of General and Rail Budget;

(b) whether they have also demanded

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

that "Agriculture" be transferred to the Concurrent list;

(c) if so, the details thereof and other related demands made in the Joint Declaration; and

(d) the Government's reaction thereto?

Alternative strategy for compensating drought affected farmers

†478. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any alternative strategy to compensate the farmers of drought affected States for their damaged crops, the loans taken for agricultural purposes as well as the interest on such loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Central Government have formulated any welfare policy for farmers to salvage them as well as agricultural labourers of affected States from miserable condition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Increase in Support Price of Millet

†479. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to increase the support price of millet;

(b) whether Government have given any direction to the Food Corporation of India regarding direct purchase of millet from farmers at the support price; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Suicides in Maharashtra

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

(a) whether it is a fact that so many farmers have committed suicide in Maharashtra recently in the month of January and February, 2005;

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

(c) whether Government have provided any incentives to their families; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other requisite steps being taken by Government to check the farmers' suicide?

Revival of closed fertilizer units

†481. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revive closed fertilizer units in public sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Shortage and black marketing of fertilizers

482. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation/complaints about the shortage, non availability and black marketing of dry ammonia phosphate for Rabi crops in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Effect of price control on quality of drugs

483. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Health and Family Welfare asked Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to reduce the number of drugs under price control to encourage Pharmaceutical industry;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers thereon; and

(c) whether price control of essential drugs will impact their quality and availability?

Profits of Pharma Companies

484. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evaluated the modus operandi of profits of Pharma Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure essential medicines for poor at affordable prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Prices of Medicines

485. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has revised the prices of certain medicines and drugs after the new excise norms;

(b) if so, whether prices of over the board medicines will go up; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Demand of urea in Bihar

†486. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a demand of urea and DAP fertilizers in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the quantum of fertilizers demanded and supplied during the last two years, in Bihar, district-wise?

Fertilizer plant in Assam

487. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to set up fertilizer plants in the country particularly in the State of Assam; and

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

Spurious stocks of food-items

488. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been issuing series of expensive newspaper advertisements on "Consumer Awareness Programmes and Rights of Consumers";

(b) if so, the purpose thereof;

(c) whether Government do not have adequate machinery to inspect and weed out all spurious stocks of food-items;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the role of a watchdog machinery dealing with expired dates and old goods, etc; and

(e) the number of such cases registered during the last three months by Governmental agencies against traders and others for stocking such goods?

Revival of closed sugar mills

489. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sugar mills in different States of the country lying closed during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide assistance for the revival of these sugar factories; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to implement the above proposal?

National Spot Exchange for Agriculture produce

490. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Spot Exchange for Agriculture produce has been set up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of States which have passed the legislation for Agriculture Produce Marketing Companies so far; and

(d) how the new exchange would address the concerns of the farmers?

Rise in prices of essential commodities

491. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of essential commodities have been rising unchecked despite a commitment in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in the prices of these commodities during the period of the current Government, so far, and the increase registered month to month in the Consumer Price Index; and

(c) the main reasons for the price increase, and the steps taken to curb the rising prices of essential commodities?

Disposal of damaged foodgrains

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

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly five lakh metric tonnes of damaged foodgrains were disposed off during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons for such huge damage; and

(c) the manner in which the damaged foodgrains were disposed off?

Hoarding and black marketing of sugar

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

(a) whether incidents of hoarding and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

black marketing of sugar have come to fore in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent the same;

(c) whether Government are going to import sugar; and

(d) whether any additional quota of sugar was already being demanded?

Diversion of foodgrains from FCI godowns

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that since 2001, the foodgrain, that left the Food Corporation of India godowns in U.P. in trucks, never reached its intended destination and were allegedly diverted to Bangladesh and Nepal through trains;

(b) whether it is a fact that as per the available records, atleast 500 trains loaded with grains landed in Bangladesh from U.P. in 2004 alone; and

(c) if so, the action proposed in this regard?

Food Ministers' Conference

495. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Food Ministers have agreed to undertake procurement and distribution of grains through their designated agencies and cooperatives as the Central Government agreed to render a package of incentives;

(b) if so, whether this package of incentives was proposed at Conference of State Food Secretaries held on 17th September, 2004 in New Delhi;

(c) whether Food Ministers' Conference held in October, 2004 adopted all the 13 resolutions passed earlier at the Conference of Food Secretaries; and

(d) if so, to what extent these proposals have been implemented by States, so far?

Warning for hoarding of essential commodities

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

(a) whether Government have warned the traders in urban areas not to indulge in hoarding of essential commodities, sugar, crude oil, etc;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to import sugar to keep the price under control; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Standards for quality of food items

†497. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bureau of Indian Standards have submitted any draft in respect of quality of food-items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether items not conforming the quality standards of the B.I.S. are sold in the Indian market; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Corruption in PDS

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the rampant corruption prevailing in Public Distribution System, especially the nexus between the PDS officials and the retail depot holders;

(b) if so, the number of complaints, regarding corruption, etc., received during the last three years;

(c) whether FIRs have also been filed against officers involved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Displaying contents on packaged food-items

†499. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would make it mandatory to display the information regarding ingredients and pesticides used in food-items on sealed packets;

(b) if so, by when necessary orders would be issued in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Sugar Prices

500. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER

AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retail sugar prices have recorded a steep rise from Rs. 17.00 to Rs. 22.00 a kg. in the recent months;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor and steps being taken to stabilise the prices at the earliest;

(c) whether Government have recently permitted a UK based multi-national SUCDEN to buy and sell sugar in bulk in Indian domestic market and to import raw sugar for re-export after value addition; and

(d) if so, whether such a step would tend to destabilise the Indian domestic market at retail level?

Committee for New Consumer Policy

501. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMIREDDY:

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

(a) whether the department of Consumer Affairs has constituted a Committee for formulating the New Consumer Policy;

(b) if so, how many members are there in this panel;

(c) whether any time-frame has been set for submission of the recommendations;

(d) if so, by what time the Committee is likely to submit its report; and

(e) the main objectives which will form part of the New Consumer Policy?

Posts of Veterinary officers and surgeons in zoos

502. DR. NARAYAN SINGH
MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that posts of veterinary officers and surgeons in the zoos across the country have been lying vacant for several years;

(b) if so, the number of such posts to be filled up zoo-wise and the reasons for not filling these posts so far;

(c) whether Government consider the availability of veterinary doctors as an important requirement for maintaining the health and hygiene of zoo animals, especially the endangered ones; and

(d) if so, the action taken or being taken in this regard?

Future plan for protection from Tsunami

503. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the plans to protect the country's shorelines from future Tsunami threats using Environment as a weapon, such as mangroves, etc.;

Damage to forests and property by fire

†504. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that devastating fire is causing heavy damage to forests and property;

(b) if so, the details of the same during the last two years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government for preventing such damage to forests and property?

Steps to control the pollution in metro cities

505. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the necessary steps taken by Government with regard to control the pollution in the metropolitan cities of the country;

(b) whether environmental awareness programme is being implemented by Government in these cities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Disappearance of tigers from Sariska Reserve

506. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:

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

(a) whether it is fact that as per the World Wildlife Fund (WWF)-India expert team survey, the Sariska Reserve does not have any sign of the presence of tigers;

(b) if so, the reasons for sudden disappearance of tigers from this Reserve;

(c) the total population of tigers in the country as per census carried out and the total number of tigers in the Sariska at that time;

(d) whether Central Government have demanded any explanation from State Government in this regard; and

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

Proposal to review the Forest Conservation Act, 1980

507. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to review the Forest Conservation Act of 1980; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Wildlife crime

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that India has become a favourite hunting ground for increasingly organized wildlife crime networks; and

(b) whether it is fact that in July 2004, 10 tiger skins, 25 leopard skins, four sackfuls of fresh tiger bones and claws of 31 tigers and leopards were seized from 11 different States across the country?

Extinction of endangered wildlife

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

(a) whether it is a fact that tigers and other endangered wildlife have either become extinct or fast becoming extinct even from the reserved forest areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof with number of tigers, lions and other rare wildlife in different reserved forest areas during the last three years, year-wise and area-wise; and

(c) the measures contemplated to further protect these endangered animals, with allocations made for the purpose and spent thereon during the last three years, year-wise?

Sanctuary land to forest dwellers

510. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT

AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to hand over vast tracts of sanctuary land to long time residents of forests;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted to grant such rights;

(c) whether any limit would be there on the extent of land which would be handed over to any one individual;

(d) the details of the plans of Government to hand over sanctuary land to forest dwellers; and

(e) the time schedule to implement this new policy?

Mangrove development along coasts

511. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a programme to expand mangrove forest along our coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for this programme during the last two financial years;

(d) the funds utilised during the said years on mangrove development; and

(e) the other steps proposed to expand this work?

Allocation of forest land to Government Departments

512. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed diversion of forest land to Government Departments for

developmental projects and providing public utility facilities;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) what parameters would be used for clearance of such projects; and
- (d) the limit being fixed for felling of trees for these projects?

Pollution in Bihar

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

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards media report stating that NASA reported high level of pollution enveloping Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to check the pollution in Bihar; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Facility of GIS and GPS to Forestry

514. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the forestry of our country have the facility of Geographical Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and area-wise; and
- (c) the steps, if any, to establish more number of GIS and GPS in the country's forestry?

Comparative forest figures

515. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the comparative forest figure, State-wise in 1950, 1980 and 2000;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the rate of depletion has been higher in case of economically more advanced States; and
- (c) if so, whether Government would consider a more liberal approach such as accounting degraded forest land for compensatory afforestation in granting clearance for projects in backward States where rate of depletion has been lower?

Clearance for high-rise buildings

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

- (a) whether Government have recently issued guidelines making it mandatory for all high-rise structures throughout the country to take prior clearance from his Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereto;
- (c) whether the view points of the various State Governments were solicited before the issue of the guidelines and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the mechanism to ensure that the clearance of the projects is not unduly delayed?

Developmental construction activities in tribal areas and villages

517. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have issued a fresh set of guidelines allowing a variety of

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

developmental construction activities in tribal areas and villages on the fringe of forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have asked the State Governments that tribals and forest dwellers should be spared from eviction drives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Role of communities in conservations of bio diversity

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

(a) the role of the communities in the management and conservation of biodiversity under the Biodiversity Act;

(b) what protection Government are providing on the rights of the community representatives;

(c) whether any additional rules have been formulated for the Biodiversity Management Committees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Pending proposal under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana

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

(a) the details of the proposals pending for approval of his Ministry under 'Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of proposals from the State of Uttaranchal for construction of roads under the said scheme are pending with Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the norms for approval of proposals under the said scheme are proposed to be relaxed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Tiger population in Ranthambhore

520. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

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

(a) whether there has been a report recently that the tiger population in Ranthambhore has suddenly dropped; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps being taken to investigate the causes and take remedial action?

Polluting industrial units

521. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that polluting industrial units continue as a threat to environment;

(b) if so, the number of industries which are recognized in Polluting Category, State-wise;

(c) whether any action has been taken to prevent it, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Protest rally against Biodiversity Act, 2002

522. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environment and other activists launched a protest rally against the Biodiversity Act, 2002 and the Rules

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

framed there-under, in the Capital near Paryavaran Complex in December, 2004;

(b) if so, the main objections voiced by them indicating the provisions of the law and the rules; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Pollution in Ganga river

523. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of pollution of water in the river Ganga during its journey in Kanpur is very high;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount spent, so far, to cleanse Ganga river in and around Kanpur; and

(d) the steps proposed and the amount required to cleanse Ganga at Kanpur so as to bring the level of pollution there to a satisfactory level?

Tiger population in the National Tigers Reserves

524. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tiger population in the National Tigers Reserve is fast dwindling and has become extinct in the Sariska National Park; and

(b) the identified causes responsible for the decline in tiger population and the estimated number of surviving tigers in the country according to the 2004 census?

Wildlife sanctuaries in J & K

525. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the climate

of Jammu and Kashmir is suitable for rare species of wild life;

(b) if so, whether Government would establish wildlife sanctuaries in Jammu and Kashmir for the same and attract more tourist lovers of wild life;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

FPIs role in diversification and commercialisation of agriculture

526. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Processing Sector is playing a vital role in diversification and commercialisation of agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Food Processing Policy

527. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal/draft for a Food Processing Policy, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed steps to tackle the high cost of the food processing structure like storage facility transaction costs, multiplicity of regulators and infrastructure;

(c) whether fishery resources and products and its related industry are also associated with the above policy;

(d) if so, the steps to be taken to tackle the production cost and other facilities in the industry related to fisheries; and

(e) the details of the food processing units in various States as on today, State-wise and category-wise?

National Food Processing Policy

528. DR. KARAN SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether National Food Processing Policy, 2005 has envisaged doubling of production and exports within next five years;

(b) if so, what are the other main features of this policy;

(c) whether Government have finally cleared decks for a regulatory body and unified law for food industry;

(d) whether biggest bottleneck in expanding food processing sector in terms of investment and exports is lack of adequate infrastructure; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to make food processing industry a more investment and export oriented?

Delay in medical reimbursement

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

(a) whether it is a fact that considerable delays are caused by the Directorate of C.G.H.S. in making reimbursement to medical claims submitted by the retired C.G.H.S. beneficiaries causing immense financial hardships to them; and

(b) if not, the number of such reimbursement claims submitted before 1st May, 2004 and 31st October, 2004 still pending as on 31st January, 2005 with the Headquarter or the Regional Office (North) for preparing cheques for the amount?

Clinical trial on experimental drugs

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

(a) whether Government are aware that some major biotech companies had been conducting clinical trials on their experimental drugs without the approval of GEAC; and

(b) if so, the details of companies and action taken against them by DCGI?

Easy and cheap supply of life saving drugs

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

(a) whether Government are aware that life saving drugs have become inaccessible and unaffordable for common people;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering of making those life saving drugs more accessible and available; and

(c) the details thereof?

World Bank report on maternal mortality rate and AIDS

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

(a) whether Government have reviewed a recent study of the World Bank on social progress and outlook highlighting *inter-alia* that despite increase in public health expenditure the maternal mortality rate has worsened, going up from 424 per 100,000 in 1990s to 540 per 100,000 in 2000 and HIV infected has risen from 3.5 million in 1990s to 4 million in 2000;

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

(c) whether any fresh steps have been taken to upgrade the health facilities available to common citizens and strategy drawn up to effectively contain HIV virus already threatening large parts of the country?

Hike in hospital charges in Government hospitals

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased 10 per cent in consultation, investigation and treatment charges in Government hospitals in several cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the poor patients are finding difficult to get the treatment in the Government hospitals?

Harassment to CGHS beneficiaries by the CGHS approved private hospitals

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

(a) whether Government are aware that many a times recognised private hospitals for CGHS beneficiaries are not adhering to the norms specified by Government and harassing the CGHS beneficiaries going there;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to punish the defaulting recognised private hospitals; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Scarcity of medicines in CGHS dispensaries

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the immense difficulties being faced by CGHS beneficiaries as many a times medicines are not available in the dispensaries;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to make these medicines available; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Medical infrastructure

536. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

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

(a) the number of medical colleges, pharmacy colleges, doctors, nurses, chemists and hospitals in the country, State-wise as on 31st December, 2004;

(b) the number of hospital beds which are available in the country, State-wise and the doctor-patient ratio in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that nearly 15 crore citizens do not have any access to hospitals and doctors, Government or private in the country;

(d) the percentage of GDP spent on healthcare in the country, State-wise; and

(e) by when the primary Healthcare is to be made available to every citizen?

Use of banned drugs

537. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some common medicines that have been banned in many foreign countries are still allowed to be used in India;

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

(c) the effect of using such banned medicines; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by Government against such companies that are still producing these medicines?

Fake drug manufacturers

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

(a) whether certain small factories in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are making fake drugs out of "chalk powder" and branding as "life saving" drugs;

(b) if so, the number of fraud cases, company-wise, factory-wise and State-wise which were detected by Government during the last two years; and

(c) the stringent measures taken by Government till date against those manufacturers?

Infant mortality rate in India

539. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that infant mortality rate in the country has been on the increase;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the

years 2003-04, 2004-05 till February 2005, State-wise;

(c) the percentage of neo-natal deaths and post neo-natal deaths during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken to tackle the problem of child deaths and the results achieved, so far?

States having negative population growth

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

(a) the names of the States which have recorded a decline in population growth rate during the first four years of the current decade 2001 to 2004; and

(b) what specific achievements have been made in the implementation of different birth control schemes and programmes and the total expenditure incurred thereon?

Insecticides in the food stuffs

†541. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether Government have prescribed any norms with regard to the admissible quantity of residue of insecticides in the food stuffs and soft drinks;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the names of food stuffs and soft drinks for which the said norms have been set up by Government; and

(d) the norms for each food stuff and soft drink which is not harmful to human lives?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Food testing laboratories

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

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

(a) whether it is a fact that any checking system has been evolved in the country to find out residue of pesticides in the beverages and eatables;

(b) if so, the total number of laboratories set up, so far, under this checking system in the country and its locations;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to insufficient number of laboratories, the monitoring system has gone faulty; and

(d) if so, the number of laboratories to be set up in the next two years and the total number of laboratories estimated to be required for an effective monitoring system?

Population explosion and food

†543. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that population of country has crossed one thousand million;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to over population despite the efforts of Government, common man is not getting the basic facilities of food, cloth and shelter; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by Government to check the increasing population and the results thereof?

National Institute of Preventive and Community Health

544. 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 planning to set up a National Institute of Preventive and Community Health on the lines of IIT and IIM to train specialists in preventive and community health;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the said institute, apart from giving training;

(c) the number of such institutions which are going to be located in the country; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to start such institute in Andhra Pradesh keeping in view the development and excellent health infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh?

Action plan on AIDS awareness

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

(a) the outcome of the action plan that Government propose to bring about on AIDS to generate awareness and develop a multi-sectoral approach to check the spread of disease;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to include HIV/AIDS as a subject in schools and colleges; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Joint campaign for HIV and TB

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

largest number of people with tuberculosis;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has also largest number of HIV positive people infected with tuberculosis.

(c) if so, whether Government have any programme for joint campaigning for these deadly diseases; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that HIV patients are more prone to tuberculosis?

National Council on AIDS

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a National Council on AIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the number of cases of HIV/AIDS have risen to 5.1 million at the end of last year from just one case in 1986; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that India today stood next only to South Africa which is estimated to have 5.4 million cases?

De-recognition of medical and dental college in Karnataka

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

(a) the names of the medical and dental colleges in Karnataka recommended by Medical Council of India for de-recognition;

(b) the reasons for such recommendations;

(c) the fate of the students studying in these medical colleges; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to protect the interests of these students?

Dental care

†549. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether maximum number of people are not able to get their dental diseases treated due to shortage of dentists in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise number of registered dentists at present together with the details of training received by them in comparison to the foreign countries?

Fluorosis in M.P.

†550. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fluorosis is spreading rapidly in some districts of Madhya Pradesh due to excess fluoride in water;

(b) if so, the comprehensive details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any record of affected villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Recruitment of psychiatrists

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

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately six crore people in our country are suffering from one mental ailment or the other and only limited psychiatrists are there in the country for the treatment of these diseases; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to recruit more psychiatrists?

AIDS control through awareness

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

(a) whether it is a fact that over five million of our people were HIV patients in 2003 and this disease is spreading fast in several States, as per UN report;

(b) whether it is also a fact that drug-injecting is playing a major role in the menace; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to create awareness about this deadly disease among the people and to effectively control this menace?

Health hazard by mobile phones

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

(a) whether many research reports suggest that there are health hazards to children from radio frequency transmission by using cellular phones;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any study to confirm this report;

(c) if so, the results thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Leprosy in India

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

(a) whether Government are aware that according to the report of WHO, Leprosy

has completely been eliminated globally except India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the plans of Government to eliminate leprosy through the active participation of NGOs and Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute?

Measures to check epidemics in Tsunami affected areas

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Tsunami toll in December, 2004 in coastal areas has resulted in fears of epidemic for persons living in the areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check it and protect the people living in those areas;

(c) whether any foreign help was also sought for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Vacancies in CGHS dispensaries

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

(a) whether it is a fact that several posts of ayurvedic and Homoeopathic pharmacists are lying vacant in the CGHS wing of Delhi as on 1st April, 2003;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Central Employment Exchange had sponsored the names of some candidates for the vacant posts of homoeopathic and ayurvedic pharmacists in August, 2003;

(c) if so, the reasons for not conducting any interview so far for the above mentioned posts; and

(d) by when the aforesaid posts are likely to be filled up?

Outbreak of jaundice in Kerala

557. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the outbreak of jaundice in various districts of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the place from where the jaundice is reported and the number of people affected and died due to jaundice in Kerala during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) the steps taken to contain the outbreak of Jaundice;

(d) whether the State sought any assistance to contain the outbreak of jaundice; and

(e) if so, the details and the action taken thereon?

Control of AIDS

558. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether any fresh initiative is being taken by Government to check the growing menace of AIDS which is rapidly spreading in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Discouraging smoking among the youths

559. PROF. ALKA BALRAM
KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether any fresh initiative is being taken by Government to discourage cigarette smoking especially among the youths in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Spurious drugs

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

(a) whether Government are aware that spurious and sub-standard drugs are being sold dauntlessly in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals has expressed concern over sale of sub-standard drugs;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to keep a check on manufacturing and sale of spurious and harmful sub-standard drugs; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty persons?

Lady doctor in CGHS dispensary

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

(a) whether Government are aware that no lady doctor has so far been posted in the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Homoeopathy dispensary, Sector 12, R.K. Puram, New Delhi;

- (b) if so, the specific reasons therefor;
- (c) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to fill up the post of lady doctor in the aforesaid dispensary; and
- (d) if so, by when; and if not, the reasons therefor?

Dental care for CGHS beneficiaries

562. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent to which the CGHS beneficiaries are entitled to dental care/ services, including procedures, etc. that can be availed by them as outdoor patient;
- (b) the number of CGHS beneficiaries in Delhi and the number of dental doctors in various hospitals/institutions in Delhi covered in CGHS, available for the purpose; and
- (c) whether Government propose to strengthen the infrastructure for providing better dental care to the CGHS beneficiaries?

Banning of Gutkha

563. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to ban Gutkha on the lines of the Government of Maharashtra as it causes cancer to the users;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

- (d) the names of the States which have banned the Gutkha?

Expenditure on Family Welfare Programme

564. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of expenditure being made by Government on Health and Family Welfare Programme in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and
- (b) the action to be taken to achieve the target?

Medicated stents in heart patients

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

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that there has been indiscriminate use of medicated stents in heart patients with clogged arteries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have asked top cardiologists to come up with guidelines which could help check this;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reasons for which Government have taken such a decision?

Shortage of medicines in Delhi

†566. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there has been shortage of ten medicines for various diseases including

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

depression, cancer, heart diseases, T.B. etc. since January, 2005 in Delhi and in other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the shortage and the outcome thereof?

Black marketing of medicine from AIIMS

567. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that medicines intended for use of "Government supply" were reportedly being sold in the open market by AIIMS's employees along with certain workers of chemist shops located outside Hospital premises;

(b) if so, the preventive measures Government have taken till date to stop pilferage of Government supply as well as open sale of certain sub-standard/fake medicines to patients by chemist shops; and

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by Government into all such matters and if so, with what results?

Media Leaders Summit on HIV/AIDS

568. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Media Leaders Summit on HIV/AIDS recently held in New Delhi took note of the fact that from one reported case in 1986, HIV positive cases in India have already crossed five million mark;

(b) if so, the reasons for such an alarming rise in HIV positive cases despite a concerted effort and campaigns not only by Government agencies but also by NGOs; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Summit

and being adopted by Government to make a dent in the rising trend in HIV/AIDS cases?

Spurious medicines' trade centres

569. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the remedial measures and action taken so far in connection with Bhagirath Place in Delhi, which runs a clandestine empire in spurious medicines and drugs which the Confederation of Indian Industries, has identified the area as the main distribution centre and probably the main production centre for spurious medicines and drugs and as one of the three main centres of Rs. 4000 crores worth of spurious medicines trade in the country; and

(b) the action taken regarding identification of such Centres elsewhere in the country and details of action taken against them so far?

New molecule on AIDS treatment

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the medical faculty and scientists in the University of Geneva have developed a new molecule called PSC-RANTES which protects against HIV/AIDS virus;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the new molecule would help in AIDS control?

ART clinics

571. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that many Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics ask an infertile couple to sign a consent form which contains a statement "we also understand that ART procedure carries with it sexually transmitted disease or AIDS";

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take against such ART clinics, which use donor's ova/sperm/embryo without verifying his/her suffering from killer disease; and

(c) the action Government propose to enact a law prohibiting such a practice?

Quality health care for the poor

572. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the wealthy and affluent middle class only afford quality private health care and health care offers ample opportunities for investment; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to offer quality health care to masses?

Pulse polio immunization

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

(a) the progress made till December 2004 in polio eradication drive being launched country wide and to what extent the decline in the number of polio patient recorded;

(b) whether it is a fact that in many States particularly in Uttar Pradesh this

drive is not being run successfully; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the views expressed by the State Government in this regard?

Ayurvedic remedy for heart patients

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhartiya Ayurvedic Sansthan got the success to cure the heart patients without conducting any bypass surgery and the Sansthan got the fame in the world; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

WB aid for National Rural Health Mission

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

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

(a) whether Government have approved launch of a National Rural Health Mission with Rs. 3,700 crores credit grants-in-aid from multilateral agencies;

(b) whether Government have also approved a proposal to initiate negotiations with World Bank for credit support of Rs. 1,575 crores and for grants-in-aid support for Department for International Development (DFID) for Rs. 2,125 crores for RCHI programme to supplement resources of National Rural Health Mission; and

(c) if so, by what time final decision is likely to be taken and the areas to be covered during 2005-06?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Fast connecting trains

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

(a) whether Government had announced to start fast connecting trains to connect various parts of the country during the last year;

(b) if so, whether the said trains have been started and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of new trains announced to be started this year and which regions would be connected as a result thereof and the number of trains out of these which have already been started; and

(d) the reasons for not starting the trains regarding which announcement were made?

Interim report on Godhra incident

577. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI DHARAM PAL
SABHARWAL:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Banerjee Committee constituted by the railway administration has submitted its interim report regarding incident of fire in the S-6 bogie of Sabarmati Express at Godhra station on 27th February, 2002 to Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereon?

Andheri-Ghatkopar rail line

578. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to start any new rail service between Andheri and Ghatkopar in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the project is likely to be started?

Rail accidents

†579. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail accidents during the year 2004-05;

(b) the details of financial assistance provided to relatives of passengers killed or seriously injured in the said accidents;

(c) the details of losses suffered by railways in the said accidents, separately; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken to check the recurrence of such accidents?

Renovation of railway lines

†580. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government carry out renovation work of railway lines each year;

(b) if so, the railway lines renovated (in Km.) during the last three years; and

(c) the details of amount spent in this regard, year-wise?

Illegal railway ticketing

†581. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the illegal ticketing agents;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action being taken by Government to check illegal ticketing; and
- (d) the losses being incurred by Government due to this per annum?

Arrears of expenditure on Railway police by Maharashtra

582. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge recovery is pending as arrears of expenditure incurred on Railway Police by Maharashtra Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government would pay arrears to Maharashtra Government?

Sanction to railway police posts

†583. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not accorded sanction to 76 railway police posts created by Government of Maharashtra for Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the sanction would be granted for the said 76 posts?

Second broad gauge line between Ahmedabad and Rajkot

584. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to lay a second track of broad gauge line between Ahmedabad and Rajkot (Gujarat State);

(b) the time frame by which the project is to be completed and the total expenditure to be incurred on the project; and

(c) looking to the fast Industrial Development and Investment of nearly Rs. 35,000/- crores in Jamnagar District of Gujarat whether laying of second track upto Okha is under consideration?

Proposal to run the trains by CNG and diesel

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

(a) whether any proposal to run the trains by a mixture of CNG and diesel is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision to this effect is likely to be taken?

Close circuit TV and cameras at stations

†586. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to install close circuit T.V. and cameras in order to check the crimes at important stations; and

(b) if so, the categories of stations where these are to be installed and the estimated costs thereof?

Pathankot-Jogindar Nagar Railway line

†587. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether there is any plan to lay a railway line for connecting a religious place named Dhotsidh with whole country through railway route from Pathankot-Jogindar Nagar railway line *via* Ranital and Jawalamukhi in view of negligible expansion of railway in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Petition against Banerjee Committee report

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

(a) whether it is a fact that following the findings of the U.C. Banerjee Committee that the Godhra train fire was caused by accident, certain intellectuals and journalists have petitioned Government to free the persons incarcerated on the suspicion of causing the fire and paying compensation to such persons; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and Government's reaction thereto?

Railway's safety measures

589. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has prepared a comprehensive plan with a policy thrust on safety measures;

(b) whether Railways have decided to install new devices for interlocking system at 1550 stations nationwide;

(c) if so, whether new system could effect better operational efficiency, flexibility and greater safety by providing quick route setting on the pressing of entry and exit key on a central control panel;

(d) if so, whether installing of new devices will check human error in rail accident; and

(e) if so, other details of plan prepared by his Ministry?

Repair of dilapidated rail bridges

†590. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have earmarked funds for the repair of rail bridges to be undertaken in future of which are in dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, whether bridges in dilapidated condition have been identified;

(c) if so, the details of the amount earmarked for the repair of bridges; and

(d) by when the repair work of the bridges would be completed alongwith the details thereof?

Competitiveness of Indian Railways

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

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the present scenario of global trade, it is needed to make the Railways competitive;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that despite being one of the biggest Railways of the world, Indian Railways is more expensive than those of America and China; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and Government's plan to make Indian Railways competitive at international level?

Private investment in railways

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways propose to revise siding rules to encourage private investment in construction, up-gradation and its efficient utilization;

(b) if so, whether a Task Force has been set up for the purpose;

(c) whether it has submitted the report; and

(d) if so, the salient recommendations thereof?

Collision of Jammu Tawi Express in Punjab

593. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Ahmedabad bound Jammu Tawi Express collided with oncoming local train near village Mansar in Punjab on 14th December, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof with casualties;

(c) whether the cause of accident has been inquired into;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against erring officials; and

(e) the steps being taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents?

Train from New Delhi to Azamgarh

594. SHRI DARA SINGH

CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons why a train connecting New Delhi to Azamgarh has not been started so far, since independence;

(b) whether is it a fact that the only available train Kaifiat Express from Old Delhi does not have 1st A.C. for the Members of the Parliament neither its timing suits Central Government employees;

(c) whether Government propose to start a fresh train with 1st A.C. and IIIrd A.C. coaches from New Delhi Railway Station to Azamgarh in view of grievances of Members of Parliament and employees;

(d) if so, by when Government propose to do so; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Gauge conversion projects in Rajasthan

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

(a) the time-frame fixed for completion of gauge conversion projects in Rajasthan;

(b) the physical and financial progress regarding gauge conversion projects in the State of Rajasthan and the reasons for delay; and

(c) the Budget provision for Rewari-Sadulpur, Sriganganagar-Sarupsur and Phulera-Jodhpur railway lines in Rajasthan, and whether this provision is sufficient for completion of these projects, if so, the details thereof?

Compensation to accident victims

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the time limit prescribed by the Railways for the disposal of cases, complete in all respects, for compensation submitted by accident victims or their next of kin with the Railway Claims Tribunals;

(b) the number of pending cases complete in all respects as on 31st December, 2004, with each Tribunal beyond the time allowed for their disposal, with the reasons for delay in each case; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken for their expeditious disposal?

Rail link between R.S. Pura and Poonch

597. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people living in R.S. Pura and surrounding area have been demanding rail link between R.S. Pura and Poonch for the betterment of business activities and movement of local goods besides cheaper passenger transport;

(b) whether Government are considering to link R.S. Pura and Poonch by local rail;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government will consider this demand of the people of J&K?

Earning of Railways

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have earned Rs. 952 crores more than the budgetary provision for the first nine months of 2004-05;

(b) if so, the operating cost of the Railways during this period;

(c) the operating cost of the Railways during 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(d) whether the Railways is likely to make profit during the current financial year; and

(e) if so, what is the estimated amount thereof?

Rail Roko Agitation in Orissa

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

(a) whether there is a Rail Roko agitation at Talcher Railway Station in Orissa in the recent past against continuous neglect of the station and other issues;

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

(c) the steps undertaken, so far to meet their demands?

Support of Railway Police to KRC

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

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation does not have the support of Government Railway Police to provide protection to its property, rolling stock and passengers;

(b) whether to overcome this handicap, KRC has trained its staff in martial art forms including travelling ticket examiners and coach attendants; and

(c) whether the Railways would emulate the initiative taken by KRC to train its staff in other zonal railway sectors also?

Ticketless travellers

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

(a) the number of high level special

checks conducted by Railway teams headed by magistrates or officers with magisterial powers to nab and apprehend ticketless travellers throughout the country during 2004, zone-wise; and

(b) the number of ticketless passengers nabbed, the total fares, fines and penalties covered as a result thereof, zone-wise?

Booking of railway tickets on Mobile phones

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced the booking of railway tickets on mobile phones;

(b) if so, the details of cities/towns that have been identified and allowed to book tickets through mobile telephones;

(c) whether it is also a fact that during the next financial year *i.e.* 2005-06 this facility is going to be extended to all the places of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Container traffic business

603. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have contemplated private players in container traffic business;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the advantages envisaged by entrusting the container business to private players;

(d) whether it would lead to retrenchment in railways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Separating Bhilai Steel Plant from SAIL

†604. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have received any proposal from Chhattisgarh Government for separating Bhilai Steel Plant in Chhattisgarh from Steel Authority of India Limited;

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

(c) if not, by when the same would be taken?

SAIL's status

605. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) could not succeed, so far, to recover its sound financial health and is incurring heavy losses, despite Government's monetary help;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of financial help given, so far, by Government for restructuring Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) since February, 2000; and

(d) the present status of SAIL and the steps proposed to be taken in this respect?

Investment in steel sector

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

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing production capacity of steel in the country is 36 million tonnes;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard together with the total capital invested in steel sector in the country for the utilisation of the production capacity of steel; and

(c) the total work force required for optimum use of production capacity and the total number of people presently employed in the said sector?

Steel production

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

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set a target to instal the 110 million tonnes capacity of steel production in the country by the year 2020;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the assessment with regard to requirement of steel in the country by the said period has also been made;

(d) if so, the assessment of the same; and

(e) the additional capital investment required to invest the said production capacity?

Strategic Plan for steel production

608. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any strategic plan

for increasing the production of steel and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have ensured that the production and export of the raw material and iron ore are so balanced as to serve the projected expansion in steel sector; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Supply of iron ore to Chhattisgarh by NMDC

†609. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation has received demand for supply of iron ore from the iron ore based industries of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the names of industrialists who placed this demand alongwith the dates when it was received; and

(c) the action taken by corporation in this regard?

Environmental remedy and social investment programme by iron ore companies

610. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of plants and the number of iron ore companies in the country dealing with extraction of minerals, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether any of these companies are contributing any amount of environmental remedy and social investment programme in the region of the respective States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;
(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
(e) the reaction of Government thereto?

NEW DELHI;
The 26th February, 2005
Phalguna 7, 1926 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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