

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on Thursday,
the December 4, 2003/Agrahayana 13, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries: Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy; Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution; Development of North Eastern Region; Disinvestment; External Affairs; Labour; Planning; Road Transport and Highways; Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—146

Rejection of loan applications by Public Sector Banks

196. DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND
RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints from the States and beneficiaries under PMRY about large scale rejection of applications and delay in sanctioning and disbursement of loans by the Public Sector Banks;

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

(c) Banks which are major defaulters in this regard; and

(d) remedial measures Government have taken in this regard?

Promotion of KVI Sector in Southern States

197. DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND
RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a package for the development and promotion of Khadi and Village Industries Sector is under implementation in Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of implementation of the package, State-wise?

Rural Industrialisation in Madhya Pradesh

198. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of National Programme on Rural Industrialization in the Industrially Backward Areas of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the remarkable achievements made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Cottage industries in Assam

199. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prepare any scheme for the promotion of the cottage industries in the rural areas of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of funds allocated by Government for the promotion of cottage industries during the years 2002-03 and 2003-04?

Nuclear power generating capacity

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

(a) whether it is a proposed to attain 4500 MW nuclear power generating capacity with Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors in the next four years and another 2320 MW would be added with Light Water Reactors taking the total to 6800 MW; and

(b) what is the target plan of Government during the Tenth Five Year Plan period and how far it would help the country to attain self-sufficiency in power sector?

Setting up of Software Technology Parks of India

†201. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had set up Software Technology Parks of India in the year 1991 for promoting Software export;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that STPI is setting up software parks at various places with the cooperation of State Governments;

(c) if so, name of the States where such parks have been set up; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to set up such parks in Himachal Pradesh also, if so, the details thereof?

Post offices in Rajasthan

202. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

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

(a) the details of the post offices running in the State of Rajasthan, district-wise;

(b) how many of them are running in rented premises; and

(c) the details of the post offices that would be set up in the near future, district-wise?

Communication facilities in North-Eastern States

203. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether lack of communication facilities has been a major drag on the developmental aspects of North-Eastern States;

(b) whether the present licensee for North-East for cellular services are indulging in restrictive trade practices by not expanding the capacity of their network and selectively seeking high-end customers for existing cellular services in Guwahati and Shillong; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has any plans to provide cellular connectivity to North-Eastern States and if so, the details thereof?

Telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh

204. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of persons on waiting list for telephone connections in Madhya Pradesh as on the 31st October, 2003;

(b) the steps taken to clear the wait-listed applications; and

(c) by when, the list would be cleared?

Telecom facilities in rural areas of Bhopal

205. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to provide public telephone facilities including Fax/STD/ISD etc. in the rural areas of Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Introduction of Mobile phones for Tripura

206. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when, mobile phones would be introduced in Tripura;

(b) the maximum number of mobile phone sets earmarked for the State;

(c) whether the number is fixed up according to population of the States of the North-East; and

(d) if not, what are other criteria followed in fixing up the number of mobile phones?

Shortage of cellular services

207. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that despite BSNL's claim of providing cellular service all over the country including Jammu & Kashmir, there are still many States that face shortage in terms of service, connectivity and allocation of cellular phones;

(b) if so, the details of the States where such problems are arising; and

(c) by when, BSNL would overcome such problems in these States?

Violation of license conditions for mobility to subscribers

208. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain private WLL operators had violated the license conditions to provide full mobility to its subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government consider multiple registration and call forwarding a new technological innovation, if so, the details thereof;

- (d) if not, whether merging the licensing for GSM and CDMA services under a 'unified license' would not be construed as legitimization of the violation post facto; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

MTNL's cellular service collections

209. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Telecom Commission has observed that MTNL's Cellular service collections were low to 45 per cent due to faulty software for billing acquired from Tata Infotec;
- (b) whether the Commission has also expressed concern over MTNL's Garuda and Dolphin services which were not picking up as expected; and
- (c) what steps are being taken to improve the efficiency of MTNL to face competition from private operators?

Uniform licensing fee

210. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of TRAI for imposition of a uniform licensing fee for telecom service providers both cellular and WLL;
- (b) whether such undue delay in enforcing a uniform licence system both for cellular and WLL operators has helped

WLL operators to amass fortunes due to lack of clear-cut guidelines on limited mobility of WLL providers; and

- (c) whether any of the WLL operators have been found to have violated the ground rules of limited mobility clause and if so, whether any penalty has been imposed on them?

Unified License

211. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) how does Government define and differentiated between 'unified license' as distinct from 'universal license';
- (b) whether the TRAI has come up with a recommendation on 'unified license' and whether they have elaborated on 'universal license' as well; and
- (c) what are the factors which informed TRAI's recommendation on sequencing implementation of 'unified license' ahead of that of the 'universal license'?

Cell phone connections

212. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cell phone connections in the country as on the 31st October, 2003;
- (b) the number of land line telephone connections in the country as on the 31st October, 2003; and
- (c) how does these numbers compare with cell and land line connections as on the 31st October,1998?

Rural Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal	1999 for not implementing the revised tariff;
213. SHRI Sk. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:	(b) the reasons for this lapse and the amount remaining unrealized so far;
(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in the rural areas of all the districts of West Bengal;	(c) the investment made in December, 1999 on procurement of Internet pay phones; and
(b) whether more telephone exchanges are to be set up in the State; and	(d) the reasons for not utilizing them and the loss caused as a result thereof?
(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps that have been taken to improve the situation?	Installation of new Telephone Exchanges
Constitution of Telephone Advisory Committees at circle level	216. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
†214. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:	(a) whether it is a fact that installation of new telephone exchanges has been discontinued throughout the country;
(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has been in receipt of suggestions from the Representatives (M.Ps.) in regard to constituting Telephone Advisory Committees at circle level throughout the country;	(b) whether uncovered rural and urban areas are proposed to be covered with the help of WLL;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and	(c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) above are in affirmative, whether the coverage of uncovered areas is impossible on accounts of hill topography in hilly areas of the country; and
(c) the action taken by the Ministry in this regard?	(d) whether in view of this difficulty in hilly States, Government would consider installation of telephone exchanges in each area?
Implementation of Revised Tariff	Security Deposits
215. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:	217. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
(a) the loss of revenue suffered by MTNL during April to December,	(a) the amount of money collected by his Ministry during the past three years

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

ending October 31, 2003, by way of security deposits from the subscribers at the time of obtaining the facility; and

(b) the amount refunded during the said period on closing the connections by the subscribers?

Fall in profits of BSNL

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a fall of around 75 per cent in the profit of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. during the year 2002-03 as compared to the year 2001-02;

(b) the details of the profits made by BSNL from April, 2003 till date during the current period and to what extent this profit is less in comparison to the same period of last year;

(c) the reasons for continuous fall in the profit of BSNL and measures adopted by it to check this trend; and

(d) by when the results would be achieved regarding the same?

Uniform licence scheme

219. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to adopt uniform licensing schemes to bring all the licence holders under one regime; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to implement the scheme?

Export of Electronic and Computer Software/Services

†220. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that electronic computer software and service were exported to one hundred and eighty one countries during the year 2002-03;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that seventy five percent export has been made to three countries viz. USA, England and Germany; and

(c) if so, the value of exports to the said countries, separately and the percentage of this value of total export?

Capital Investment for Development of Communication System

†221. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that with a view to developing the communication system in the country maximum investment of capital was made during the last decade;

(b) the extent of investment made at the end of the said decade as well as at the outset of the decade of 90s and the position of the same as on March, 2003; and

(c) the number of people provided with employment owing to the growing capital investment?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Improvement in Export performance

†222. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of OMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken any step for improvement in export performance in the field of information technology;
- (b) the details of achievements in the fields of information technology, software, services and electronics during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03;
- (c) the target fixed for promotion of export and manufacture of computer hardware sector in the said fields in the next three years; and
- (d) the details thereof?

Unsolicited E-Mails

223. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the numerous spam/unsolicited E-mails that people are receiving from their various internent connections each day;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) what steps Government propose to take to penalise such companies/call centres that follow such practices?

IT exports

224. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any specific efforts have been made, after the Prime Minister's visit to ASEAN countries to market IT technologies to these countries in view of the growing requirement of IT products there;
- (b) if so, whether any positive response has been received, so far; and
- (c) whether any market survey has been conducted to explore IT exports to South East and West Asian countries?

Mobilisation of small savings

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

- (a) the total amount mobilized by Government through small savings during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts has decided to dematerialize the postal saving instruments;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) how it helps last mile class of investors?

Capacity of mobile and WLL services

226. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing and proposed capacity of mobile and WLL services indicating target fixed for each location in the North-Eastern

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Region being and to be implemented by BSNL and private parties shown separately, location wise; and

(b) the steps taken and achievement made towards infrastructure development of IT and telecom sectors in the region?

Uniform licensing regime

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

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has recommended for unified licensing regime;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether is it also a fact that cellular operators are opposing to unified license regime;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether unified licence does not make infructuous the on-going battle of the limited mobility service while TDSAT's Judgment is awaited; and

(f) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

Out of order telephones in Himachal Pradesh

228. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the telephones under Jaisinghpur Exchange in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh remain out of order and no action is taken to set them right in spite of repeated complaints lodged in this regard;

(b) the number of complaints received from January, 2003 to date and the time taken by Government to put these

telephones in order; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this behalf?

Allotment of PCO booths in Assam

229. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of educated unemployed youth has applied for Gramin PCO booths in North-Eastern Region particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) the details of criteria adopted by Government for allotment of PCO booths among these persons; and

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

Welfare schemes for foodgrains supply

230. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the Welfare Schemes of Government in which FCI supplies foodgrains either free or at highly subsidized rates;

(b) whether the food supplied under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) scheme and Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are being fully utilized by the States/UTs; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Production and procurement of foodgrains

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

(a) whether there has been a decline in food production and procurement in 2002-03; and

(b) if so, the reasons for food grains stocks being reduced and aggressive food grains export?

Foodgrains for Southern States

232. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foodgrains allocated to Southern States for tackling drought conditions during the current calendar year, as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether foodgrains have been released as per the demand of the concerned States;

(c) if not, what was the demand of each State and foodgrains actually released;

(d) the reasons for not releasing the demanded quota; and

(e) the remedial measures taken?

Procurement of paddy, rice and bajra

233. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of procurement of paddy, rice and bajra in different States, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have received complaints of distress sale of these commodities by farmers;

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

(d) what steps Government have taken to procure the entire stocks of these commodities and prevent their distress sale?

Procurement of wheat by private sector

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

(a) whether Government are considering to allow private sector to enter procurement operation of wheat;

(b) if so, the details of the new policy of Government;

(c) what would be the impact of this policy; and

(d) whether Government are also considering similar mechanism in operating of other items?

Purchasing of wheat by private traders

235. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to allow private traders to purchase wheat at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) from the farmers instead of waiting for the FCI to disburse the stock;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the details of steps taken to ensure availability of strategic buffer stocks to provide for emergencies and to ensure stability of prices, as also against any unethical practices like private hoardings etc.?

Foodgrains for Mid-day Meal Scheme

236. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether FCI was required to supply wheat and rice under the Mid-day Meal Scheme from August, 1995 and claim payment from Ministry of Human Resource Development by submitting the bills;
- (b) whether FCI had instructed its various zones to submit the bills by seventh day of the following month so as to avoid interest on food credit payable to Banks;
- (c) if so, the amount paid as interest on food credit by FCI from August, 1995 to October, 2003, zone-wise and year-wise; and
- (d) the action taken for causing the loss?

Foodgrains for BPL families in Rajasthan

237. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the present quantity of wheat and rice allocation for BPL families to Rajasthan;
- (b) whether there has been a decline in the quantity as compared to earlier years;

- (c) if so, the details for the last three years, year-wise;
- (d) whether in the past the State Government of Rajasthan had informed the Centre that the wheat and rice for BPL families were of very bad quality; and
- (e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

All party meeting on PDS

238. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently an all party meeting was held on the problems of the Public Distribution System;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the follow-up meeting with all the Chief Ministers is also supposed to be held;
- (c) if so, the details of the outcome of the discussions that took place in all party meeting;
- (d) whether the meeting of all the Chief Ministers was held;
- (e) if not, by when it is going to be held; and
- (f) what is the reaction of Government to scrap PDS and to adopt universal system of distribution so as to ensure that no section of the population is deprived of food?

Embargo on export of foodgrains

239. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to put an embargo on the export of grains;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to pay compensation to exporters who have release orders for grains from the Food Corporation of India;
- (d) if so, the amount to be paid to the exporters who were hit by the embargo; and
- (e) the factors that prompted Government to take the decision to put an embargo?

Quality of electrical gadgets

240. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is getting a lot of complaints regarding inferior quality of household electrical gadgets, usually non-ISI marks or otherwise of inferior quality, which at times become life hazards;
 - (b) if so, how many electrical gadgets are having ISI marks and what is the percentage thereof; and
 - (c) whether Government are thinking of making it mandatory for daily-use electrical gadgets to have ISI certification?

Prices of mustard oil

- †241. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the prices of mustard oil have steeply risen during the last six months throughout the country;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

- (c) whether Government are aware of large scale consumption of mustard oil in northern India;
- (d) if so, the total consumption of mustard oil throughout India as edible oil;
- (e) what steps Government have taken to ensure the supply of edible oil at controlled price; and
- (f) the extent to which this step would provide relief to the consumers?

Streamlining of PDS

242. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) the present status of Public Distribution System;
 - (b) the steps taken during the current year to streamline the PDS;
 - (c) whether PDS is catering to the needs of domestic requirement; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Reforms in Public Distribution System

243. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are considering a proposal to review its food policy and carry out reforms in the existing Public Distribution System (PDS);
 - (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
 - (c) what other steps are being taken to ensure that no section of the population is deprived of two square meals a day or face death due to starvation when the country is holding unprecedented amount of excess foodgrains year after year?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Purchase of wheat by Private parties

244. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of permitting the Private Sector to purchase wheat and other food grains from open market;
- (b) if so, what percentage of food grains would be permitted to be purchased by the Private Sector;
- (c) whether this measure is taken to bring down the huge subsidy bill of Rs. 27,000 crores per annum;
- (d) if so, to what extent the food subsidy would be brought down; and
- (e) the details thereof?

Price of levy sugar

245. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RUMANDLA
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:

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

- (a) whether representations have been received for lowering the price of levy sugar sold from Public Distribution system outlets to the levels of the other food grains available under this scheme; and
- (b) if so, the action taken thereon?

Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh

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

- (a) whether Government are aware that many sugar mills are lying closed in the State of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, Mill-wise;
- (c) the details of the action plan formulated by Government to revive the above mentioned sugar mills in the State; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Incentive for sugar export

247. DR. A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Central Government are planning to offer an additional incentive of Rs. 500 per tonne on sugar exports, as part of its target to ship at least 30 lakh tonnes during the ensuing 2003-04 season (October-September), as against 17-18 lakh tonnes likely to be achieved in the current season;
- (b) whether accepting recommendations of inter-ministerial group, Government have approved sops for sugar exporters and decided to bail out the States where there is no system of State advised prices for canes; and
- (c) if so, to what extent these funds have been made available to the exporters?

Projects under taken by NEC

248. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

- (a) the projects which NEC has decided to undertake for execution in the North-Eastern States under Non-Lapsable Central Pool during the Tenth Plan/current year, State-wise;

- (b) the projects under Non-Lapsable Pool, which have to be executed in Tripura;
- (c) whether funds have been placed for these projects;
- (d) the number of projects of Tripura in which there is good progress (including the pending ones);
- (e) the number of projects in which there is no progress at all (including the pending ones); and
- (f) how does Government think in utilising the allotted funds, in time?

Restructuring of NEC

249. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have any plan to restructure NEC;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
 - (c) the total amount accrued in the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources till March, 2003; and
 - (d) the amount released from NLCPR since its inception indicating number of projects submitted by each State and cleared, State-wise?

Off-loading of stakes in Oil PSUs

250. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to offload 10 to 12% stakes in select oil PSUs like IOC, GAIL and ONGC to make up for the shortfall in the projected disinvestment earnings due to Apex Court's embargo on HPCL/BPCL privatisation;
 - (b) whether there is also a proposal to split the IOC and hive off its marketing

- arm including retail outlets to a strategic buyer; and
- (c) what are the other options being considered for making up the projected shortfall in the disinvestment kitty?

Disinvestment of FACT

251. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have taken a decision to disinvest its shares in the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) in Kerala;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
 - (c) whether Government have received proposals for converting FACT into a joint venture unit of the State Government with cooperative sector;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof;
 - (e) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal in this regard; and
 - (f) if so, the details thereof and stand taken by Government thereto?

Disinvestment of Government establishments

252. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of Government establishments which have been put to disinvestment during the last five years and how many were gaining concerns; and
 - (b) the number of persons in office in these establishments have lost jobs or have accepted VRS since introduction of Disinvestment policy in the country?

Disinvestment of BALCO, VSNL, IPCL, and Centaur Hotel

253. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) in the context of disinvestment/ privatisation of BALCO, VSNL, IPCL and Centaur Hotel, the valuation of each of above mentioned enterprises as a going concern and valuation of unused land and other assets; and

(b) the term and conditions of shareholders' agreements with the successful bidders in each of the above mentioned enterprises?

VRS and CRS in disinvested PSUs

†254. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees retired so far under the VRS and CRS in public sector undertakings in which disinvestments have been made;

(b) whether Government have constituted any committee or task force for studying conditions of rehabilitation of such retired employees;

(c) if so, whether said committee is also assessing the assurances given by Government before the disinvestments alongwith the justification of disinvestments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Disinvestment in Hindustan Cables Ltd.

255. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL) is running in heavy loss;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many employees are not getting their wages regularly;

(c) if so, what action is being taken;

(d) whether Government are planning to disinvest in this unit; if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any fresh proposal for VRS to employees are being considered; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Core Group of Secretaries guidelines on Disinvestment

256. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether core group of Secretaries on Disinvestment has framed guidelines for natural asset companies to revive sell off momentum which had appeared lost after the supreme Court judgement;

(b) whether meeting also discussed programmes related to disinvestment in some other PSUs like Shipping Corporation of India;

(c) if so, the decision taken;

(d) whether Government have gone to the Supreme Court to review its order on investment of PSUs;

(e) whether in view of this, Government are considering to consult all national parties to discuss this issue; and

(f) if so, whether any legislation is being considered for disinvestment of PSUs?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Economic cooperation with ASEAN	Unconditional talks with Pakistan
<p>257. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:</p> <p>(a) whether during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Bali, India and the ten member ASEAN signed three major agreements on fighting terrorism and enhancing economic cooperation during the Summit;</p> <p>(b) if so, whether besides cooperation in combating terrorism it represented a precursor to a free trade arrangement and India's accession to the treaty of Amity and Cooperation with South East Asia; and</p> <p>(c) the details of the agreements?</p>	<p>259. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:</p> <p>Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:</p> <p>(a) whether after the recent announcement by the Prime Minister on 29th October, 2003 proposing various measures to settle the Kashmir issue, Pakistan has accepted the condition that India includes Kashmir for meaningful dialogue;</p> <p>(b) if so, whether the objection raised by Pakistan has no relevance as it is purely an internal matter of India;</p> <p>(c) whether no talks will be resumed with Pakistan unless and until they are unconditional; and</p> <p>(d) if so, what is the progress so far made in regard to implementation of these proposals?</p>
Disruption of Diwali celebration in London	Conservation of Hindu culture of Indonesia
<p>258. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:</p> <p>(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that two Britons were engaged in criminal acts by disrupting Diwali celebrations at the Ram Temple in Ealing Road, London where the local police have charged them under Section 28 of the Criminal and Disorder Act of 1998;</p> <p>(b) whether Indian High Commission in London is following up this case so that culprits are punished; and</p> <p>(c) if so, the status of the case and whether Government propose to pursue the matter with Home Department of UK to avoid recurrence of such incidents?</p>	<p>†260. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:</p> <p>(a) whether it is a fact that the Governor of Bali had requested our Prime Minister to save Hindu culture of Indonesia during the latter's trip to Indonesia;</p> <p>(b) if so, action taken by Government in this regard; and</p> <p>(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor?</p>

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Facilities to the Haj pilgrims

261. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what plan has been drawn for providing better facilities to the Haj pilgrims for the year 2004; and

(b) whether the Ministry was consulted before changing the subsidy norms and rules and regulations for the Haj pilgrims this year?

Indians in British jails

262. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 204 Indians are languishing in British jails; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to get them released and bring back?

Indo-Israel agreements

263. SHRI RUMANDLA
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Israel visited India recently and held discussion on several important issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of agreements signed with Israel;

(d) the extent to which Government would be benefited by such agreements;

(e) whether the visit was on the invitation extended to him by the Government; and

(f) if so, the date of the invitation extended?

Sale of Indian property in Karachi by Pak authority

264. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a posh property belonging to Indian High Commission in Karachi has been fraudulently disposed off without the knowledge of Indian High Commission;

(b) whether the Government of Pakistan has ordered a probe into this illegal sale on a complaint lodged by India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the disputed property has been acquired by a Pakistani sugar baron for Rs. 40.00 million; and

(d) the details of the probe conducted by Pak law enforcement agencies?

Deployment of Indian forces in Iraq

265. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US has revived its request for deployment of Indian forces in Iraq; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Indo-EU Summit

266. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-EU Summit was recently held in New Delhi;

(b) if so, what were the issues discussed at the meet; and

(c) the details of the decisions taken?

**Joint Indo-Turkey working group
against terrorism**

267. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an agreement with Turkey was held to set up a joint working group against terrorism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Turkey has extended any help to Government to fight terrorism; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Help of Russia, Tazakhstan and
Syria in combating terrorism**

†268. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have sought help of Russia, Tazakhstan and Syria in combating terrorism in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of deliberations with the Prime Minister during his visit, recently;
- (c) whether any agreement has been signed among the four countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent it would be helpful in combating terrorism?

**Liberal visa rules between India
and Russia**

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to make visa rules liberal with a view to facilitate the

movement of industrialists and traders between India and Russia;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

**India's help to defuse Sri Lankan
crisis**

270. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have offered recently any sort of help to Sri Lanka Government to defuse the crisis in that country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

**India's passive role over recent
development in Sri Lanka**

271. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have chosen to resort to a passive role over the recent political developments in Sri Lanka;
- (b) whether India perceives any fall-out over the Sri Lankan crisis, in terms of influx of refugees from Sri Lanka; and
- (c) if so, the contingency plans put in place by India to counter refugee influx from Sri Lanka?

**Issuance of visa to Indians by
Indonesia**

272. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indonesia has suddenly imposed a decision that Indians cannot be

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

issued visas without clearance from Jakarta;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to get revoked the new arrangement?

Reduction in U.S. visa

†273. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S.A. have made an annual cut in issuing H-1 visa from 1.95 lac to 65,000 only;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made regarding effects likely to be brought about on Indian Information Technology Industries as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the assessment made in this regard and the annual number of competent Indian youth expected to get jobs in America?

Immigration racket

274. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Home Office has taken up with the Indian High Commission in UK, the issue of illegal immigration racket involving Indian High Commission officials;

(b) if so, whether an Attache of Indian High Commission in London was recalled at the behest of British Home Office;

(c) whether it is a fact that the British Home Office has charged that some officials

of MEA, New Delhi are involved in this racket; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

Admission to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference

275. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are trying for admission into the Organisation of the Islamic Conference; and

(b) if so, the countries from which support is being lobbied for entry into OIC?

Fake passport and visa racket

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Police have confiscated around 650 files from Indian Consulate situated in Buckingham in connection with fake passport and visa racket;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been involvement of some people posted in the said consulate in this regard;

(c) whether some employees of Delhi Passport Office are also involved in issuance of fake passports for quite a long time;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government for conducting independent and speedy enquiry of the same; and

(e) by when enquiry report would be received in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

CBI inquiry into immigration racket

277. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI KARNENDU
BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has been asked to investigate the case that could expose immigration racket allegedly involving official of U.K. High Commission and operatives of an Indian Intelligence Agency;

(b) whether it is also a fact that U.K. Home Office has supplied clues to the Ministry of External Affairs;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to ensure fair CBI probe;

(d) the present stage of the investigation process; and

(e) by when the matter is likely to be finally settled?

American help to bring Dawood Ibrahim back

278. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the long awaited US announcement that Dawood Ibrahim *alias* Sheikh Dawood Hassan is a specifically designated global terrorist with a Pak-Passport and a Karachi address;

(b) whether it is not only nails Pakistan's lie denying Dawood's presence in Pakistan also underscores the fact that the US knows that Dawood is based in Pakistan;

(c) whether the US has, in response to India's request, put any pressure on Pakistan to depart Dawood, one of the 20 most wanted by India, to India; and

(d) the Pak Government's response thereto?

Russian assistance for Kundankulam nuclear power plant

279. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2000-MW Kundankulam nuclear power plant, being built with Russian assistance in Tamil Nadu, also came for discussion during the recent visit of Indian team to that country;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken at the meet; and

(c) by when, the power plant is likely to be completed?

Indians employed in UAE

280. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indians employed in UAE till date, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that a considerable number of Keralites are among the Indians employed and seeking employment in UAE;

(c) if so, whether the hardships faced by the Keralites for getting visas and other related documents has been brought to the notice of the Government;

(d) whether Government received any proposal for setting up of a Consulate of UAE at Cochin to overcome the problem;

(e) if so, whether Government have taken up this matter with the UAE authorities; and

(f) if so, the details along with the results therein?

Change in visa rules by British Government	(b) if so, the details of discussions held and the final decisions arrived at?
†281. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that recently British Government had changed visa rules for entry to their nation as well as for those who travel to other countries <i>via</i> their country causing difficulties to Indians; (b) if so, the details thereof; and (c) Government's reaction thereto?	Joint strategy of India, China and Russia for restoration of sovereignty of Iraq 284. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: (a) whether on the side-lines of UN General Assembly Session in New York, the Foreign Ministers of India, China and Russia met and decided to evolve a joint strategy for restoration of sovereignty to the people of Iraq; and (b) if so, the details of the strategy, if any, evolved and the talks held in this regard?
Visa-on-arrival 282. MISS MABEL REBELLO: SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: (a) whether the 'Visa-on-arrival' project to facilitate the arrival of foreign tourists in India, has been cleared; (b) whether certain countries have been kept out of the reach of this facility, if so, the details thereof; and (c) in the current scenario of global terrorism, how far it would be safe to run this project in the country?	Assistance to Iraq 285. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: (a) the assistance, so far, provided by Government for the re-construction of Iraq after the military action by the coalition forces led by USA ended; and (b) the nature and extent of further assistance proposed to be provided by Government for the reconstruction of Iraq during the next two years, year-wise?
Visit of King of Bhutan to India 283. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: (a) whether the King of Bhutan visited India during September last and had discussions with the Prime Minister and other Government functionaries on matters of mutual interest between the two countries; and	Resolution adopted by UN Security Council on Iraq 286. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: (a) whether on October 16, 2003 the UN Security Council had unanimously

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

voted to adopt a contentions resolution on Iraq's future, legitimizing US occupation of Iraq and support of such occupation with troops and cash;

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

(c) Government's reaction and response thereto?

Trade relations with Pakistan

287. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India seeks normal trade relations with Pakistan to benefit both the countries; and

(b) if so, the measures taken in this regard?

India's proposals for normalising relations with Pakistan

288. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India proposed a dozen of steps to Pakistan to ease the tension between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals sent by Government to Government of Pakistan;

(c) whether Government have received any response from the Government of Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Anti Indian activities in Bangladesh

289. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that insurgents with strong criminal links are being given special and favourable treatment on the Bangladeshi soil for carrying out anti-Indian propaganda;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/contemplated with regard thereto so that Bangladesh does not become a hub for anti-Indian activities for insurgency and militancy in North-Eastern Region?

Release of Indian prisoners by Pakistan

290. SHRI Sk. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian prisoners released by the Pakistani authorities; and

(b) the number of Indian prisoners still in Pakistani Jails and *vice-versa*?

Response of international community to India's 12 point peace package

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

(a) whether India's 12 point peace package for normalizing relations with Pakistan announced by him on the 22nd October has been well received by the international community;

(b) if so, the reaction of major foreign powers, individually, in this regard;

- (c) the reaction of Pakistan to the package, point by point; and
- (d) the steps so far taken by Government for the implementation of the package?

Loss of man-days

292. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the man-days lost due to strike has gone down subsequently;
 - (b) whether on the other hand, the man-days lost due to closure, lockout and layoffs, are in steep rise; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

Unemployment in the country

293. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether unemployment in the country is around 2 per cent;
 - (b) if so, whether the reasons for rising unemployment has been analysed; and
 - (c) the measures proposed to control the problem?

Benefit to migrant labourers

294. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the migrant labour inside and outside the country are not getting any benefit of labour standard, if so, the reasons therefor; and
 - (b) what is Government's action plan to give relief to the migrant labour?

Strikes and lock-outs

295. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware of the observations made by the Institute for Human Development that "while the incidence of strikes in India had declined over the years, that of lock-outs had considerably increased", and further comments that "the recent Supreme Court judgement was product of the prevailing middle class mood rather than a judicious verdict;
 - (b) if so, whether Government are thinking of creating conditions where lock-outs could be reduced substantially and workers' industrial relations activities are injudiciously curtailed; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

Workplace safety for industrial workers

296. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have carried out any survey regarding the workplace safety of the industrial workers in the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
 - (c) whether it is a fact that many safety regulations of the Statute Book are not effectively implemented and if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

Exemption to SEZs from EPF Act

297. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to exempt the Special Economic Zones from the purview of the Employees Provident Fund Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this decision amounts to infringement of the rights of the workers;

(d) whether Government evolved any alternative mechanism to ensure the social security measures for the employees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Upgradation of ESI hospitals and dispensaries in Karnataka

298. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any initiatives for upgrading ESI hospitals and dispensaries in Karnataka has been taken up;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ESI hospital in Bangalore has been declared as a referral centre for all ESI hospitals in the State;

(d) if so, the facilities proposed to be provided there;

(e) whether there is any proposal to close down or merge some of the ESI dispensaries in the State which are not viable; and

(f) the amount proposed to be spent during the year 2003-04 for upgrading ESI hospitals and dispensaries in the State?

Fixed term contractual employment

299. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce fixed term contractual employment in place of permanent jobs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Right to strike by Government employees

†300. SHRIMOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has declared the right of Government employees to go on strike as illegal; and

(b) if so, what is the actual status of Government employees' constitutional right to go on strike at present?

Employment opportunity

†301. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of schemes are being effected by Government in different names with a view to generate the employment opportunities in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes alongwith their respective names;

(c) the date of inception of each of these schemes; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred upon each scheme till the end of March, 2003 and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the details of allocation made to each of the said schemes?

Employees in P.S.U.s

302. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers, employees and officers in the disinvested PSUs just prior to disinvestments and as on date; and

(b) what was the minimum wage in these PSUs prior to their disinvestments and what is the present minimum wages?

Implementation of NCLP

303. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) for the benefit of Children withdrawn from work in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the present status of NCLPs in Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States, State-wise?

SEZ projects

304. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to permit the investors of SEZ projects for non-paying of EPF, ESI contributions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Construction, forestry and wood workers

305. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of construction, forestry and wood workers working in the country;

(b) whether most of the construction workers are migrant labour;

(c) whether in view of this globalisation and use of modern technology, a large number of illiterate unskilled construction forestry and unorganized sector workers are going to be unemployed; and

(d) what are Government's action plans to upgrade the skill of the construction and forestry wood workers?

Accidents in construction projects

306. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are frequent fatal accidents in big construction projects like, Delhi Metro Railway; four golden quadrilateral roads connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata; East-West and North-South, Saurashtra-Silcher and Kanyakumari-Kashmir roads;

(b) the total number of accidents/fatal accidents alongwith the name of the companies and the workers involved, during the last three years; and

(c) whether it is because the construction companies are not implementing health and safety standards, if so, the reasons therefor

and the steps taken by Government to prevent accidents in construction projects?

Cases of child labour

307. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government for speedy disposal of pending cases relating to child labour;
- (b) the number of cases disposed off by the courts and the number of cases lying pending as on October 31, 2003, State-wise;
- (c) whether any additional child labour courts/tribunals have been set up to dispose off the cases expeditiously; and
- (d) how Government propose to deal effectively with the grave problem?

Default in P.F.

308. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have recently released a list of companies that have defaulted in remitting their Provident Fund share to the EPF Organisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any time bound programme has been formulated to recover such share of PF from central PSUs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Accidental deaths of labourers

309. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that construction and contract labours are frequently dieing in accidents in Rourkela Steel Plant, NTPC

Konia and NTPC Talcher for lack of safety measures; if so, the total number of workers died in accidents therein during the last three years;

- (b) whether the contract labours were getting the wages at par with the regular employees and also getting the health and safety facilities; and
- (c) whether Government would give clear instruction to strictly maintain the safety standards to prevent further accidents?

Legislation for farm labours

310. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are considering to enact a legislation in respect of farm labours; and
- (b) if so, by when, a Bill would be presented to the Parliament?

Amendment in Contract Labour Abolition Act

311. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have taken a decision to amend the Contract Labour Abolition Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the necessary amendment would be brought forward before Parliament for final enactment?

Contract Labour System

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

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce contract labour system in several segments in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide for decent work conditions for the contract labour force including provision for their social security and freedom from exploitation?

Bonded children in sweet-meat shop in Nellore, A.P.

313. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint on 'Bonded Children' in Nellore sweat-meat shops in Andhra Pradesh has been lodged with NHRC, recently;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that many States do not comply with all provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and how many States have not constituted the Vigilance Committee at District and Sub-Divisional level under the said Act?

New Special Economic Zones

314. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has made announcement recently to the fact that the proposed new special economic zones would be exempted from making contributions to Provident Fund and State Insurance Schemes to help exporters to compete in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and labour unions' reaction thereto; and

(c) what steps are being contemplated to reconcile different views in the matter?

Labour Reforms

315. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether is it proposed to bring out a comprehensive labour reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Immigration to developed countries

316. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing immigrants from India to the developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the number of such immigrants for the last three years, year-wise, country-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether Government have initiated any step for active regulatory and facilitating role in economic emigration to developed countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof, including the basic training to be given to the potential unskilled immigrant labour; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to regulate middle men, facilitating illegal immigration?

Per-capita income of country

317. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the per-capita income during 1995-96 and the per-capita income at present, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that per-capita income in the country has fallen drastically during the last five years;

(c) the reasons for the fall; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase per-capita income in the country?

Plans for employment opportunities

318. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employment opportunities have come down during the last three years;

(b) whether there are new plans for generation of employment opportunities during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Malnourishment in India

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

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Food and Agricultural Organization data, 51 per cent of the world's undernourished are from the South Asia region;

(b) if so, the share of India;

(c) the percentage of undernourished and the stunted growth children;

(d) the reasons for the wide spread undernourishment in India; and

(e) the steps being taken to rectify the problem?

Monitoring of items of Ministries

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

(a) whether it is a fact that PMO has selected over a hundred items from various Ministries for regular monitoring;

(b) if so, the details of the items identified;

(c) the progress observed by the Prime Minister;

(d) whether it is also a fact that only half of the items have recorded impressive performance;

(e) if so, the reasons for the lack of progress in the rest of the items;and

(f) the steps being taken for uniform progress of these subjects?

Schemes for backward and Naxalite affected areas

321. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to take steps and chart out plans for development issues;

(b) if so, what are the priority agenda for this;

(c) whether Prime Minister has offered a special gift to people living in 25 most backward districts by providing for them Rs. 15 Crore per year;

- (d) if so, whether during Tenth Plan period, Rs. 45 crore would be spent in each backward district;
- (e) whether in coming three years, Rs. 5,940 crore would be spent to develop 132 poorest and Naxalite infested districts in the country; and
- (f) by when the development of these districts would start?

Priority agenda on reforms

322. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that recently a list of 130 policy initiatives has been drawn up for executing the Government's priority agenda on reforms;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
 - (c) whether it is also a fact that the concerned Ministries have been asked to prepare their time-bound action plans on how to achieve the objectives of the thrust items related projects;
 - (d) if so, whether a broad outline of the various projects identified and the action plans drawn up therefor, with their time targets; and
 - (e) the details of monitoring mechanism established to ensure timely completion of the project?

Self employment schemes

323. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of schemes to provide self-employment for the unemployed youths from the year 1998 to 2003;
 - (b) the number of unemployed youths who have been able to enjoy self-

- employment opportunities during these years;
- (c) the percentage of the youths enjoying benefits out of the total number of unemployed youths; and
- (d) the plan to provide market for the goods that would be produced by the unemployed youths through self-employment benefits?

Poverty alleviation schemes in the country

324. PROF. M.M.AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the total percentage of people living below poverty line in the country;
 - (b) the details of the schemes formulated and being implemented by the Government for alleviate poverty in the country; and
 - (c) the steps being taken by Government in this respect?

Widening of Jalandhar-Pathankot Road

325. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the work of widening the Jalandhar-Pathankot section of the National Highway has been progressing on a very slow speed as a result of which users of the highway have to face immense inconvenience;
 - (b) if so, when did the work start and the reasons for delay in completing the work; and
 - (c) the action proposed to expedite the work and by when it is likely to be completed?

Interlinking of cities in NER

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

- (a) whether Government have cleared an ambitious project of interlinking the capital cities of seven States of North-East and Sikkim through a network of multi-lane expressways;
- (b) if so, details of the project; and
- (c) whether it is a road map for development of North-Eastern region and how far it would contribute to boosting economy of the region?

Highways in Orissa

327. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of National Highways in the country and the length in kilometer, State-wise;
- (b) the total number of roads declared in Orissa as Highways and fund allocated in the last five years, road-wise; and
- (c) whether Orissa is getting less allocation in comparison to other neighbouring States?

Projects from West Bengal

328. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of West Bengal had forwarded thirteen projects for approval under Annual Plan, 2003-04;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the date on which these were forwarded;

- (c) whether any further reminders have been received from the State;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether approvals have been accorded and if not, the reasons therefor?

Road in Madhya Pradesh

329. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic condition of roads and National Highways in Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) what steps have been taken to improve the condition of National Highways; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the progress made in Madhya Pradesh in this regard?

Completion of Golden Quadrilateral

†330. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 98 per cent of construction work of 5,846 km. long road project connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai would be completed by December 2004 and the remaining work is proposed to be completed by December, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that due to delay in the construction of the said project the cost has increased from its original estimated cost; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) if so, to what extent, this has increased?

Roads in Maharashtra

331. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways that pass through the State of Maharashtra and how many districts do they serve;

(b) whether Government are planning to link remaining districts of the State with National Highways and if so, the details thereof and the funds provided to this effect during the year 2003-04;

(c) the length of National Highways developed or being developed to four-lane facility in the State; and

(d) the foreign loans received for this purpose?

Road from Delhi to Kolkata

332. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral highway construction scheme from Delhi to Kolkata is in deep trouble and facing hurdles;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to complete the project as per schedule and to remove the hurdles;and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Amount from Central Road Fund

333. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released from Central Road Fund in all the States during the last three years; and

(b) the amount utilized and the amount unused in each state separately for the above period?

Road accidents in Delhi

334. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents that occurred in Delhi during the last 3 years and the number of persons injured and killed in these accidents; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to prevent road accidents?

Collapsing of roads and rail road bridges

335. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of collapsing of roads and rail-road bridges during the last one year resulting in heavy loss of human lives, for example the UT Daman Road accident on 28th August, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of existing guidelines to ensure that regular surveys are undertaken by the State Governments or other agencies to ensure proper upkeep and traffic worthiness of such bridges;and

(c) if not, what steps Government propose to adopt for safety of road bridges when the road building activities all around the country are on high priority?

National Highway Project

†336. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether Government have decided
to complete the 7,300 km. road construction
work during the second phase of the National
Highways Project, by December, 2007;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction
thereto and the extent of work so far
completed; and

(c) the total length of four or six lane
road constructed under the project so far?

SSIs in Madhya Pradesh

337. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will
the Minister of SMALL SCALE
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have
formulated any assistance scheme for
Madhya Pradesh in the Tenth Five Year
Plan to survive the SSIs in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Credit from banks for SSIs

338. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the
Minister of SMALL SCALE
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of
the problems experienced by small sector
in getting credit from bank; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to
reduce their problems?

Mission to Moon

†339. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will
the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer
the reply to Unstarred Question 313 given
in the Rajya Sabha on 20th February, 2003
and to state:

(a) whether the National Task Team has
submitted its report containing the
scientific purposes, cost and date of launch
etc. of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle under the
Programme, "Mission to the Moon";

(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be
incurred thereon and period of time likely
to be involved therein and by when success
is likely to be achieved; and

(c) if not, by when the details are likely
to be obtained?

Indo-Israel space cooperation

340. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be
pleased to state:

(a) the Indo-Israel bilateral Co-
operation proposed in space on micro-
satellites; and

(b) the target for launch of the micro-
satellite?

Completion of Projects

341. SHRI MANOJ
BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased
to state:

(a) the number of Central projects
initiated by the Central Government during

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the last five years which are still awaiting completion project-wise and year-wise;	(c) the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to ensure an expeditious completion of the same?
(b) the details of cost and time overrun in each case; and	

NEW DELHI;
The 28th November, 2003

Agrahayana 7, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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