

## RAJYA SABHA

### List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on  
Friday, the August 5, 2005/Sravana 14, 1927 (Saka)*

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

**Total number of questions —155**

#### **Animal diseases in U.P.**

†1264. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for Central assistance to check animal diseases in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in its implementation and the details of the proposals received from Uttar Pradesh Government for financial assistance?

#### **Assistance to Karnataka for control of pests and diseases**

1265. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sent any proposal for financial assistance for control of pests and diseases and rejuvenation of coconut palm in Turuvekere Taluk of Tumkur District;

(b) if so, whether any assistance from Central Development Board has been given to Karnataka; and

(c) if not, by when the amount would be released?

#### **Crop damage due to floods**

1266. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY:  
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of extent of damage to the crops due to recent floods in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details in terms of value of the damaged crops and the area affected, State-wise;

(c) the manner in which Government plan to help the affected farmers;

(d) the details of the mechanism for disbursing the help;

(e) whether Government have a mechanism to monitor the actual disbursement of help; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

### **MIS expenditure**

1267. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the total amount of money spent on Market Intervention Schemes and market support operations during the years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, commodity-wise and year-wise?

### **Declining livestock**

†1268. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA:  
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total livestock available in the country at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of livestock has been declining for the last five years in the country;

(c) whether Government are aware of the involvement of slaughter houses in slaughtering of bovine, slaughtering of more than authorised number of animals as also the slaughtering of stolen animals; and

(d) the action being taken by Government with regard to aforementioned slaughter houses and particularly against those situated in District Aligarh of Uttar Pradesh?

### **ICAR research benefits to farmers**

1269. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the laboratories under the ICAR have a dismal record of translating

their research/development efforts into real on-field inputs for the farmers;

(b) whether the ICAR labs have brought out nearly fourteen new high yielding varieties of seeds but these have not at all reached the farmers;

(c) whether the farmers are now relying more on private sector for their hybrid seed requirements; and

(d) the reasons for ICAR system, with huge manpower and infrastructure, failing to transfer its technology to the farmers?

### **Agricultural growth**

†1270. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that agricultural growth rate has come down to 1.5 per cent from its desired target of 4 per cent during the last three years since the beginning of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that necessary and required investment has been constantly decreasing in agricultural sector since 1980 alongwith critical decrease in agricultural research; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to bring desired improvement in agricultural sector?

### **Policy for doubling agricultural production**

1271. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a declining trend in the growth rate of agriculture and the performance of agriculture has been disturbing;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether in such a situation, there is a policy initiated to double our agricultural production in ten years; and

(c) if so, the thrust and focus to achieve this policy initiative in terms of investment in the entire chain of agricultural activities, infrastructural development, expansion and upgradation?

#### **National Farmers Welfare Fund**

1272. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the farmers have to face quite often the calamities like floods, droughts, land slides, etc. and suffer losses running into billions; and

(b) whether Government would consider to institute National Farmers Welfare Fund to ensure that the difficulties faced by the farmers are warded off?

#### **Caterpillar menace in MP**

†1273. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the action being taken by Government regarding the use of advanced techniques in agricultural sector;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh has always faced the problem of caterpillars and if so, what steps have been taken by Government in order to protect the crop of soyabean from the menace of caterpillars; and

(c) the kind of cooperation assured by the Central Government to the State Government in this regard?

#### **Development of agriculture within framework of WTO**

†1274. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme to develop Indian agriculture within the framework of World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also formulated programmes to provide training, etc. to the farmers therefor; and

(d) if so, the complete details thereof and the details of the benefits enjoyed by the farmers as a result thereof?

#### **Special package for cotton production**

1275. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to provide special package for cotton production with a view to boost the production of cotton in the country;

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

(c) the extent to which the cotton producing farmers are likely to be benefited by this special package; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to dissuade cotton producing farmers from taking the extreme step of suicide?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Target for foodgrain production**

†1276. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to double the production of foodgrains in the country by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the names of the foodgrains alongwith their respective targeted production by the end of the Plan;

(c) whether any annual increase rate has also been fixed right now in order to achieve the target of this production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Assistance to fishermen**

1277. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fishermen and the population with fish as a main food;

(b) the number of fishermen who have been provided with the modest fishing equipments;

(c) the number of training programmes organised to train fishermen; and

(d) the number of beneficiaries from such programmes?

**Development of high yield rice variety**

1278. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UN General Assembly

declared the year 2004 as the International Year of Rice;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government in pursuance thereof and the results achieved therefrom;

(c) whether any initiatives were made by the Central Government to invest in high yield varieties of rice, appropriate technology for post-harvest and pre-harvest machines and education of farmers on modern crop management methods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made during each of the last two years?

**Assistance to water scarce States**

1279. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN:  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that agricultural production is adversely affected in water scarce States like Tamil Nadu in case of failure of monsoon;

(b) whether Government have plan to help such States tide over this problem so that national annual crop production is not affected; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Production of edible oils**

1280. SHRI THENNALA G.  
BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:  
SHRI MANGANI LAL  
MANDAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of edible oil in the country is going down year after year;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of demand and supply of edible oil in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the reasons for fall in the production of edible oil;

(d) whether it is a fact that the edible oil output is likely to be hit this year also; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to increase the production of edible oil in the country?

#### **Simplifying deep sea fishing rules**

1281. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which Government are going to simplify the deep sea fishing sector;

(b) whether numerous rules and regulations have been put in place in the fishing sector;

(c) the extent to which Government are aware of the fact that some officials are periodically harassing the fishery sector through such rules;

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued to all concerned to avoid harassment and harm in the Indian fishery sector; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to sensitize the officials to treat fishery as a development activity?

#### **Devastation of crops due to substandard seeds and pesticides**

†1282. PROF. R. B. S. VARMA:  
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN  
PANY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are suffering heavy losses due to devastation of their crops because of substandard seeds and pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard, so far?

#### **Agricultural production in Nagaland**

1283. SHRI T. R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored programmes formulated and being implemented by Government for Nagaland to increase agricultural production during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have fixed any target for increasing the agricultural production; and

(c) if so, the details of achievements made in this respect?

#### **Land becoming barren in Chhattisgarh**

1284. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to pollution in Chhattisgarh, 50,000 acres of cultivable land in Simaga, Siltara and Mandir Hasaud has turned into barren land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government are aware that recently Indira Gandhi Agriculture University conducted a survey on this issue, if so, the details of its recommendations and how Government are going to implement them?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

### **Agricultural Universities**

1285. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Agricultural Universities functioning in the country, at present;

(b) whether Government periodically review their work to provide benefit to the poor rural agriculturists; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

### **Coverage area of Bt. Cotton**

1286. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:  
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has now become a major player in the transgenic crops by achieving coverage area of 50,000 hectares;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India has hiked its Bt. Cotton coverage area by 400 per cent between 2002-04;

(c) if so, in what way India is planning to galvanise the global biotech crop market in the next three years; and

(d) whether a study has been made to find out the benefits of Bt. Cotton to Indian farmers, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

### **Loans and credits for deep sea fishing**

1287. SHRI S. M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

propose to help the deep sea fishing industry;

(b) if so, the details of such plans for this financial year;

(c) whether any financial assistance in the form of loans will be given for the acquisition of trawlers;

(d) if so, the details of such schemes;

(e) to what extent, Government tie up with any financial institutions to ensure that soft credit is given to the fishing sector; and

(f) the details of such schemes being planned?

### **Bulk drug pricing**

1288. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has revised the bulk drug prices in the country, recently;

(b) if so, the details of the drugs whose prices have been reduced and the details of drugs whose prices have been increased; and

(c) to what extent the policy helps in bringing down the prices of drugs in the country?

### **Liquidation of sick industries**

1289. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jadavpur University has expressed interest in taking over M/s. Smith Stainstreet Pharmaceutical Limited along with its assets and liabilities;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined their scheme which was proposed to be presented before his Ministry; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government prefers liquidation of sick industries like Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceutical Limited rather than revival of the same without any loss to the exchequer; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

#### **Revival of FACT**

1290. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any package of revival of FACT has been pending with Government for implementation; and

(b) whether Government have taken any decision on the same and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay in implementing the comprehensive revival package?

#### **Taking over of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation**

1291. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:  
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) whether Asansol Durgapur Development Authority in January, 2003 had offered to take over the township of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation in Durgapur after the closure of Durgapur unit;

(b) if so, the status of the same and the reasons for the delay in taking a decision;

(c) how the maintenance of township and its allied infrastructure was being carried out during the last two and half years after closure; and

(d) whether these assets are being allowed to perish on its own or are being maintained or are being sold?

#### **Production in fertilizer units**

1292. SHRI N. R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer units which are producing below their installed capacity, unit-wise;

(b) the number of fertilizer units closed down, unit-wise; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to increase the capacity of these units and also to revive the closed units in the country?

#### **Expansion of FACT**

1293. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the expansion of Caprolactum plant of Fertilizers and Chemicals of Travancore Ltd. (FACT) as a part of its revival package;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether withdrawal of subsidy for ammonium sulphate and steep rise in price of raw material of Naphtha for production of ammonia has drastically affected Caprolactum plant of FACT;

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for reinstating subsidy provided for ammonium sulphate; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the Caprolactum plant and the steps taken to revive the FACT?

#### **Major bulk drugs production**

1294. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of production of about 300 important major bulk drugs produced in the country during 2003-04 and 2004-05, State-wise;

(b) the different fiscal and non-fiscal incentives/disincentives provided by the Central Government and States for setting up manufacturing units in selected areas/regions; and

(c) the impact thereof on production, quality and cost competitiveness in the long run?

#### **Fixing subsidy levels of fertilizers**

1295. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to have a clear cut policy to fix subsidy levels of fertilizers at the beginning of the year instead of micro-managing and based on input costs;

(b) whether any representation from the industry, in this regard, has been received in his Ministry;

(c) whether the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has deliberated this issue in the recent past; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Selling prices of essential commodities**

†1296. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that drastic differences are being found in the consumer selling price of foodgrains during the period from 1st June to 15th July, in the years 2004 and 2005;

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

(c) the extent to which the differences in consumer selling prices of wheat, paddy, millet, maize, mustard oil and sugar, etc. prevail and the causes of rise in the prices of the said foodgrains in 2005 in comparison to 2004?

#### **Food coupons**

1297. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce food coupons so as to procure foodgrains from shops other than ration shops;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of ration shops and number of peoples below poverty level, State-wise, category-wise as on today;

(c) whether there is any proposal to close down ration shops and depots of Food Corporation of India;

(d) if so, the alternative steps adopted for Public Distribution System;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(e) whether there is any proposal to reduce/cancel present subsidies provided to Public Distribution System; and

(f) if so, the present status of proposal?

**Subsidy for construction of godowns**

1298. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had announced a scheme to provide subsidy for the construction of godowns during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the subsidy provided under the said scheme, till date;

(c) the result achieved, so far;

(d) whether Government propose to implement the said scheme during the ensuing years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Growth of consumer durables**

1299. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMIREDDY:

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

(a) whether the first month of the current fiscal, failed to bring cheer to Rs. 48,000 crore consumer durables industry with most categories including colour televisions, witnessing sluggish growth;

(b) if so, the main reasons of slow growth rate in the industry;

(c) the edible items of consumer durables where growth has been slow; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

**Scam in PDS allocations**

1300. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:  
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether a multi-crore scam in the public distribution system of wheat allocated by the Central Government to the State for distribution among the people living above poverty line has come to light in Karnal District in Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of persons who have been arrested in this scam?

**Procurement of wheat**

1301. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official procurement of wheat this season has been less than that during last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, with the actual procurement for the two years, separately; and

(c) the steps proposed by Government to ensure that low procurement this year does not lead to artificial increase in its prices?

**Rice procurement by FCI in A.P.**

1302. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice procured by the Food Corporation of India in Andhra Pradesh in the last six months;

(b) the further quantity expected to be procured by the FCI in the rest of this fiscal year in the State;

(c) the districts where the rice is being stored by the FCI;

(d) the storage charges paid by FCI in 2004-05 for the rice stored in private godowns in the State; and

(e) the steps proposed to reduce the expenses of storage?

#### **Consumer Welfare Fund**

1303. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how much Consumer Welfare Fund was available as on 30th June, 2005 and its utilization during the last five years from 2000-01 to 2004-05;

(b) whether Government are planning to increase the ceiling on grant allocations to consumer organizations; and

(c) whether Government intend to simplify the operational procedures of Consumer Welfare Fund?

#### **Inclusion of families in BPL list**

1304. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the parameters for inclusion of a family in B.P.L. list;

(b) the number of families listed, so far, under B.P.L. category, State-wise; and

(c) whether there is any system to review the list from time to time?

#### **Wheat and rice to BPL families**

1305. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been providing wheat and rice free of cost or at subsidized cost to the States for distribution among people living Below Poverty Line (BPL);

(b) if so, the State-wise details of BPL population in 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 alongwith the details of volumes of wheat and rice provided to the respective States during these periods, indicating the volume provided free of cost and those at subsidized cost; and

(c) the details of per quintal rates of wheat and rice issued to the States during the period?

#### **Import and export of wheat**

1306. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to import wheat, if so, the details thereof including the rates at which it is proposed to be imported;

(b) whether Government exported wheat a couple of months back, if so, the details thereof including the rates at which it was exported;

(c) the justification for the proposed import and the exports made; and

(d) whether Government have examined the possibility of the vested interests in the two deals?

**PDS allocations to Assam and West Bengal**

†1307. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:  
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

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

(a) the quantum of wheat provided by the Central Government to the States of Assam and West Bengal under PDS during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the wheat so provided was given to flour mills instead of being distributed among public;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that the benefit of subsidy supposed to be availed by public was availed by the mill owners; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government to check the same?

**Diminishing forest cover**

1308. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the forest cover in the country has been diminishing;

(b) whether any survey/study has been carried out in the recent past in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of forest cover existed, State-wise, during the 1950's and as at present alongwith corresponding details of the size of inhabitants in these forests;

(d) the details of inhabitants in forest

lands found to be substantially dependent upon the respective forest for their subsistence, State-wise; and

(e) the steps envisaged, if any, to arrest the diminishing trend of forest as well as to protect the subsistence of the tribal inhabitants therein?

**Tiger population**

1309. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how far the Tiger population and poaching figures in the latest annual report of his Ministry in different National Parks, sanctuaries and tiger reserves have been found correct and sustainable, as a result of the recent counting and census carried out in each Parks, reserve or sanctuary, especially Sariska and Ranthambhore;

(b) the comparative population and poaching figures between 1999 and 2003 and the latest counting figures in each Reserve; and

(c) the reasons for disparities?

**Containing Neelgai menace**

†1310. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers in various States of the country are suffering heavy losses of crops because of the 'Roch' animal or 'Neelgai';

(b) whether the number of this specie which is called as 'Neelgai' and which is farmer's nightmare and of no use to them, has been increasing simply because the villagers and farmers mistook it for a cow which is considered a sacred animal;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether 'Neelgai' is considered an animal belonging to the species of deer which is totally different from the species of cow; and

(d) whether on this basis, Government propose to bring any bill or resolution forbidding the use of term 'Neelgai' for 'Roh' animal and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Melting of Himalayan glaciers**

1311. SHRI S. P. M. SYED KHAN:  
PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that scientists have warned that glaciers that feed the river Ganges are likely to melt down before the end of this century due to man made carbon dioxide emissions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the claim of scientists is true that there would be acute water shortage as these glaciers are vital for water supplies to millions of people in the Himalayan region;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) Government's efforts to save the glaciers from climate warming; and

(f) whether any report has been prepared by his Ministry in this regard?

#### **Loss of dense forest cover**

1312. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country had lost about 26,000 Sq. Km. of dense forest cover in 2003;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are hurdles in achieving the target of 33 per cent tree cover by 2012; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Pollution in metro cities**

1313. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to industrialization and increase in vehicles, air in metropolitan cities has become polluted and poisonous;

(b) if so, the average level of pollution in the metro cities during the last three months; and

(c) the effective steps Government propose to take to protect the population from any calamity in future?

#### **Poaching of wild animals**

†1314. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received many complaints about poaching of wild animals recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against poachers by Government;

(d) whether it is also a fact that employees of the Department of Forests are also responsible for poaching; and

(e) if so, the action taken against such employees?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Growing of certain varieties of Bt. Cotton**

†1315. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:  
SHRIMATI PREMA  
CARIAPPA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee of his Ministry has given its approval for growing certain varieties of Bt. Cotton in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the name of Monsanto company of USA is also included in the list of companies which have got the said approval while a large number of farmers of Andhra Pradesh have been ruined due to the said company; and

(d) if so, the basis on which this approval was given and who will be responsible in case of loss to the farmers?

**Construction of mud sea walls around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

1316. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to construct mud sea walls all around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands ignoring the warning by ecologists that these walls will affect the Islands' ecology and destroy fragile coral reefs;

(b) whether it is a fact that a portion of walls already constructed has gone up in some areas where sea water gushes in during high tide, destroying crops and submerging roads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the justification and safeguards taken by Government in implementation of the project?

**Request from foreign countries for Gharials**

1317. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign countries had evinced keen interest to get Gharials, now almost on the verge of extinction, from India;

(b) if so, the number of requests pending with Government;

(c) whether Government had held talks with any country for an international exchange;

(d) if so, the details of the talks held so far with different countries;

(e) the outcome thereof; and

(f) whether Government have given any nod for the exchange programme with the Nandankanan Park with a few pairs of Gharials with Government of Andhra Pradesh?

**Report of CBI about poaching of tigers in Sariska Reserve**

1318. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to form Tiger Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CBI has submitted report about poaching of tigers in Sariska Tiger Reserve; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Alarming increase of Bhitarkanika crocodiles**

1319. SHRIEKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that once endangered Bhitarkanika crocodiles are danger to humans now;

(b) whether it is a fact that the crocodile population in Bhitarkanika National Park has alarmingly increased and the man-crocodile clashes have resulted in a number of human beings falling victim to crocodile attacks; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save local people from crocodile attacks in Bhitarkanika National Park?

**Setting up of Wildlife Crime Bureau**

1320. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching is one of the major reasons for wiping out tigers from tiger reserves, especially at Sariska;

(b) if so, how Government plan to improve anti-poaching measures at the ground level;

(c) whether Government contemplate to set up Wildlife Crime Bureau to deal with wildlife criminals; and

(d) if so, by when and the details thereof?

**Assistance to families displaced due to Kudremukh National Park**

1321. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought Central assistance for rehabilitation of 211 families displaced on account of formation of Kudremukh National Park; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and by when the clearance would be accorded?

**Environmental clearance to Bauxite Refinery Project in Kalahandi**

1322. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the question raised by the Central empowered Committee for granting environmental clearance to a Bauxite Refinery Project in Kalahandi, Orissa; and

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

**Air pollution due to vehicular emission**

1323. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:  
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

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

(a) whether Government are monitoring the deteriorating pollution of urban environment due to vehicular emission;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the details of the trends during the last three years;

(d) whether the cities have been categorized on the basis of pollution;

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

(f) what steps are being taken to reduce the air pollution in urban centres?

**Adverse effect of global warming on Himalayan Glacier**

†1324. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Himalayas are melting due to adverse effect being caused due to global warming;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the recent flood witnessed Sutlej river is an example of the same;

(c) if so, whether Government have conducted any study, so far, regarding such a situation to find out changes taking place at Himalayas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps Government contemplate in this regard in future?

**Environmental clearance to Maharashtra Government proposal**

1325. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal to Poshir Dam for environmental clearance in September, 1996;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the compliances of various remarks by the Central Government were also submitted at various stages; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in clearance to the project?

**Cleaning of Yamuna River**

†1326. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount spent by the Central Government during the last three years to clean Yamuna River;

(b) whether Government of Delhi has submitted any report to the Central Government regarding implementation of Cleaning of Yamuna Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether this report has been found to be fit as per the criteria of Supreme Court?

**Use of forest land for developmental projects**

1327. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to allow the use of forest land for the purpose of developmental projects; and

(b) if so, the details of total area of land being considered for the use of the same, State-wise?

**Appointment of public prosecutor for pending wildlife cases**

1328. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:  
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 200 cases registered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act are pending in courts in the Capital and there are no public prosecutors to handle those cases;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the public prosecutors are likely to be appointed?

#### **Poaching of black bucks**

†1329. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether poaching of black bucks in the forest area of Jhajjhar in Haryana has become a common feature; if so, the number of incidents of poaching during the last three years and the number of bucks killed;
- (b) the number of persons arrested red-handed for poaching black bucks in Jhajjhar area and the action taken against them; and
- (c) whether Government are going to take some stringent measures for the protection of black buck species; if so, the details thereof?

#### **Construction of stone statue of Buddha in Karnataka**

1330. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Eco-activists and local people are up in arms against the proposed construction of the world's tallest stone statue of Buddha on a rock face at Ramanagaram region in Karnataka;
- (b) whether Government are aware of the fact that the proposed project is likely to destroy a large portion of natural rock formations and eat into forest land as also the construction work will adversely affect the already shrinking habitat of several rare bird species as well as the endangered sloth bear; and

- (c) if so, whether Government had studied implications of this project before giving provisional clearance to this project?

#### **Survey to ascertain the existing tigers in the country**

1331. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that after reports of missing tigers from Sariska Tiger Reserve, a survey has been conducted in all Tiger Reserves to ascertain the existing tigers in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of tigers found in different Tiger Reserves and the number of tigers found missing or dead after the last counting;
- (c) whether the reasons and circumstances have been established for the missing and death of tigers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the special steps proposed to be taken to protect the surviving tigers?

#### **Lake conservation plan**

1332. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE:  
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

- (a) whether the number of lakes is declining in the country constantly;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government have chalked out any plan for their conservation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(e) the targets fixed and the achievements made thereunder; and

(f) the details of lakes taken up/to be taken up under the said plan during 2003-04 to 2005-06 alongwith fund allocation, lake-wise?

**Smuggling of skins and organs of animals by mafia gangs**

†1333. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many mafia gangs are active in smuggling of skins and organs of animals after poaching them in National Parks;

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

(c) whether Government have formulated any concrete policy for the protection of tigers and other wild animals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Pollution by slaughter houses**

†1334. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:  
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN  
PANY:  
DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH  
LODHA:

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

(a) the number of slaughter houses in the country which have come to the notice of Government and in what manner these are polluting the environment, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that slaughter houses situated within the radius of 5 kms. from the city of Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh

are causing water, air and other types of pollution there;

(c) whether slaughter houses situated near the city of Aligarh are polluting the environment due to nexus between pollution control authorities and the latter; and

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

**Financial assistance for afforestation by NGOs in MP**

†1335. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has demanded any kind of financial assistance for afforestation by Non-Government Organisations;

(b) whether Government have given its clearance to the said demand; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Declaration of Bankapur as 'Peacock Conservation Reserve'**

1336. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include Bankapur forest close to Haveri in Karnataka under a new category of protection called 'Conservation Reserves';

(b) whether it is a fact that it has a population of nearly 1,000 peacocks;

(c) whether the Bankapur forest and temples belonging to the Hoysala reign would be included under this plan; and

(d) when the final declaration would be made declaring the area as 'Bankapur Conservation Reserve'?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Violation of Forest Conservation Act  
by windmill companies in  
Chitradurga district**

1337. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of encroachment and violation of Forest Conservation Act have been registered against two windmill operators in Chitradurga district (Karnataka);

(b) whether Government are aware that the windmill company has built 19 windmills against the permitted 16 units;

(c) whether it is a fact that the windmill company has not got permission from the State Government; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the windmill companies entering the reserve forest area are spoiling the ecosystem in the name of clean power?

**Poaching of tigers**

1338. SHRI B. J. PANDA:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal trade in tiger organs is highly organized in our country;

(b) if so, what is the current data of poaching, both official and non-official from 1999 to 2004;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain lacunae in the existing laws have led to low conviction of wildlife poachers;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to bring in stringent measures to wean away poachers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Wild animals destroying standing crops**

1339. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some areas of districts of Ropar, Hoshiarpur and Pathankot which fall under semi-mountainous ranges are inhabited by large number of wild and stray animals that destroy standing crops and agriculture lands of those areas every now and then;

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

(c) what precautionary measures Government have taken or propose to take in this regard as these animals are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act?

**Forest guards**

1340. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how the Government have utilized Rs. 68 lakhs approved for deployment of forest guards and involving local population during rainy season, in tiger protection in several tiger reserves;

(b) whether Government are aware that forest guards so deployed are unarmed and lack basic facilities such as lighting equipments and communication network and how Government propose to equip them to confront a sophisticated armed poacher; and

(c) whether the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 are adequately deterrent or they require amendments to give more teeth to it?

**Encouraging setting up of FPIs**

†1341. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently taken certain steps to encourage setting up of food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken;

(c) the details of the products for which Government are considering to extend economic assistance for their processing; and

(d) whether this assistance is for certain special places (districts) or for all places in general?

**Modernising FPIs**

†1342. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps for modernisation of Food Processing Industries in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of incentives proposed to be given to different States or non-Governmental entrepreneurs for the said purpose?

**Developing FPIs**

1343. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to improper facilities and policy

implementation, country loses agricultural foodstuffs worth more than Rs. 50,000 crores annually;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of comprehensive steps taken or proposed to be taken for developing food processing industry/sector in the country?

**New subjects in Chinese medical syllabus**

†1344. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medical Council of India (M.C.I.) is considering to amend the Chinese Medical Syllabus or to add new subjects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Status report of new medical colleges in Karnataka**

1345. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any report on the status of the proposed medical colleges at Hassan, Mandya and Belgaum in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether MCI has visited these colleges and submitted any report to Government;

(c) the steps, if any, taken or proposed to be taken on the status report of the proposed Government medical colleges sent by the Karnataka Government; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) whether Government would accord permission to start these medical colleges during 2005-06?

fill-up all vacant posts and also transfer the doctors/staff who have completed three years there?

#### **Anti-Retroviral Therapy**

1346. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government had decided to introduce Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) treatment in 100 hospitals across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that India has HIV prevalence of 0.91 per cent among the adult population;

(d) whether it is also a fact that India continues to have the most number of cases of HIV/AIDS after South Africa; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Vacancies in CGHS dispensary, R. K. Puram and Pushp Vihar**

1347. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of doctors and para medical staff posts lying vacant in CGHS dispensary, Sector 4, Pushp Vihar and Sector 12, R. K. Puram, Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Siddha;

(b) whether class IV employees always distribute medicines in Ayurvedic dispensary, R. K. Puram due to non availability of pharmacist;

(c) whether pharmacist/storekeeper do not distribute medicines and misbehave with patients; and

(d) by when Government propose to

#### **National Commission on Population**

1348. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first meeting of the reconstituted National Commission on Population has been held;

(b) if so, what decisions were taken in this meeting;

(c) whether Government are planning to come out with a specific policy for demographically weak States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Hubs of spurious drugs**

1349. SHRI B. J. PANDA:  
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bhagirath Place in Delhi followed by Aligarh in Uttar Pradesh and Alwar in Rajasthan are the hubs of spurious drugs' trade, worth crores of rupees;

(b) whether Government have ever raided these markets to assess the impact of this illegal trade;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have developed some inherent foolproof measures to control the ramification of this menace in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

**Banning of tobacco advertisements,  
etc.**

1350. SHRI R. KAMARAJ:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had taken a decision to ban smoking scenes in films and television serials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to introduce a total ban on tobacco; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**Overseas patients in India**

1351. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite enormous infrastructure and speciality hospitals in India, Singapore surpasses India by far, in terms of medical tourism;

(b) the average overseas patients attracted by India during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 and comparative figures of Singapore, China and Japan; and

(c) whether Government have gone into the causes of low medical tourism to India compared to other countries like Singapore with much less speciality hospitals and other facilities and infrastructure?

**Food and drug testing lab in  
Chhattisgarh**

†1352. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Chhattisgarh have forwarded any proposal for setting up of a food and drug testing laboratory; and

(b) if so, by when the said proposal is likely to be approved?

**Non-availability of medicines in  
CGHS dispensaries**

1353. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many a time, prescribed medicines are not available in CGHS dispensaries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that chemists of CGHS are frequently going on strike over the last three years;

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard; and

(d) what is the total amount that Government collected from CGHS beneficiaries during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise?

**Upgradation of hospitals in Uttar  
Pradesh**

1354. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to provide funds to the State of Uttar Pradesh for upgradation and strengthening of various hospitals and primary health centres in the State during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, hospital-wise/primary health centre-wise; and

(c) the steps taken, so far, for releasing the funds to Uttar Pradesh?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

#### **AIIMS like hospital in Patna**

†1355. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the hospital being constructed by Government at Patna on the pattern of AIIMS which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-President of India a few years ago; and

(b) the status of allocation of funds for the construction of hospital, year-wise?

programmes in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi;

(b) the amount provided by Central Government to each of these organisations during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether this amount has been fully utilized and if so, the complete details thereof; and

(d) whether there are reports regarding misuse of this amount and if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government against the organizations found guilty?

#### **Request of Uttar Pradesh for financial help**

†1356. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, *vide* their letter, dated 17th December, 2003 had submitted a proposal to the Central Government regarding financial assistance of Rs. 894.21 lakhs for three mental hospitals at Agra, Varanasi and Bareilly, Rs. 281.50 lakhs for five medical colleges, Rs. 320.50 lakhs for a unit of Balrampur hospital, Lucknow unit and Rs. 315.50 lakhs for other items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when Government are likely to accord its sanction for the same?

#### **Task force on falling sex ratio**

1358. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a task force on falling sex ratio in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some States the sex ratio had reached at shockingly low levels;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government had taken a decision to monitor the programme implementation by the voluntary organisations at the grassroot level in more effective manner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Lack of medical facilities**

1359. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of citizens are deprived of good medical care owing to the prohibitive costs of private medical care and lack of adequate State sponsored facilities; and

#### **Misuse of funds by NGOs in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Delhi**

†1357. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Non-Governmental Organisations engaged in health related

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the action Government propose to take to provide all citizens access to affordable medical treatment?

enforce the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 more stringently?

#### **Revising payment rules of diagnostic centres**

1360. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether procedures including payments of bills of cancer diagnosis such as scan, chemo-graphy, radiography, etc. described by Government in their Office Memorandum dated 26th August, 2002 regarding diagnostic centres under CGHS Delhi have since been revised;

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

(c) whether Government propose to give some relaxation to senior citizen beneficiaries, if so, to what extent?

#### **Anomalies in sex ratio**

†1361. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ratio of females is falling rapidly in several States of the country, especially in Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have issued strict instructions after the National Commission on Women drew its attention towards this fall but in spite of that sex determination tests are being done undeterred in several States of the country; and

(c) if so, whether Government will

#### **Applications pending for starting private medical colleges in Karnataka**

1362. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals from private managements for starting medical colleges in Karnataka, pending with Government;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that MCI has recommended for giving approval to some private managements to start medical colleges in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) which are the medical colleges of private managements awaiting clearance from Government; and

(e) whether Government would take steps to accord permission during 2005-06?

#### **Spurious medicine manufacturers**

†1363. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies found indulged in the manufacturing of spurious medicines during the last five years;

(b) the number of companies out of these against which action has been taken; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of steps being taken by Government to check such practices?

**Lack of resources for health-care facilities**

1364. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Nirman is not possible until the health care is strengthened which was facing many challenges due to lack of resources;

(b) whether Government had any plans to create medical kiosks which would be within the reach of the common people especially rural people and whether Government had received any proposal in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Heavy rush of patients in Delhi hospitals**

1365. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that various hospitals in the National Capital Territory of Delhi including AIIMS are facing the problem of heavy rush of patients;

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

(c) the steps Government propose to take to construct new hospitals in Delhi to tide over the problem?

**Pesticides level in blood**

†1366. DR. MURLI MANOHAR

JOSHI:  
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER  
SINGH MAJITHA:  
SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN:  
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:  
SHRI DHARAM PAL  
SABHARWAL:

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the report released by the Centre for Science and Environment to the effect that the farmers in Punjab are having more pesticides in their blood in comparison to the farmers in America;

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

(c) whether Government have ascertained the facts in this regard by conducting any scientifically effective investigation after the release of said report; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Sex selective births**

1367. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:  
SHRIMANOJBHATTACHARYA:

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

(a) whether there is an alarmingly high incidence of sex-selective births in complete violation of the PNDT Act in Delhi;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



(c) the steps proposed to arrest the rampant foeticide in Delhi resulting in sex ratio of 219 girls for every 1000 boys born?

#### **New Primary Health Centres**

1368. SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to start more new primary health centres, State-wise;

(b) if so, the features of new primary health centres, State-wise; and

(c) the target for the year 2005-06, State-wise?

#### **New angioplasty technique for diabetic patients**

1369. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether a new angioplasty technique has been developed by the doctors of the Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi to help the diabetic patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to give it a wide publicity and extend the technique to major hospitals in the country so as to benefit vast majority of diabetic patients?

#### **New medical and dental colleges**

1370. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new medical/dental

colleges for which the Medical/Dental Council of India have given approval during the last three years;

(b) the details of proposals for setting up new medical/dental colleges for which approval has been refused during this period with reasons for each; and

(c) the details of medical/dental colleges for which approval has been given provisionally by his Ministry during the same period?

#### **National list of essential drugs**

1371. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 which his Ministry has brought out after the review of the National Essential Drugs List, 1996;

(b) whether enough safeguards had been provided in this list of 2003 to keep the prices of essential medicines and life saving drugs under control, so as to keep the prices of these drugs within the reach of a common man;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

#### **Testing of procured blood**

1372. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines set by the National AIDS Control Organisation with regard to tests to be conducted for the procured blood from every donor to detect HIV and Hepatitis;

(b) whether every Government, private, corporate or society owned blood banks are fully equipped technically to detect HIV

and Hepatitis as per the guidelines, to control spreading of AIDS through blood transfusion;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government would enact a law, making it mandatory for every blood bank in India to fully equip technically to detect HIV and Hepatitis with heavy penal action in the event of not implementing the law; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Shortage of doctors and staff in CGHS dispensaries**

1373. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:  
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of Doctors and other supporting staff in various CGHS dispensaries in the Capital;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that emergency services in certain dispensaries have been discontinued and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the same are likely to be started again?

**New gene for AIDS resistance**

1374. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study, a gene may help people resist AIDS;

(b) whether his Ministry has come across such a study; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Study on diabetes by AIIMS**

1375. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study on diabetes conducted by AIIMS has warned kids on over-diet as reported in print media;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government on this study report?

**Family welfare centres in the country**

1376. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of family welfare centres functioning in the country, particularly in rural areas, State-wise;

(b) whether Government have received any proposal to open more family welfare centres especially for mother-child welfare from various State Governments particularly from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount allocated by the Central Government for the maintenance of the family welfare centres during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(e) the amount spent by each State, year-wise?

**Increase in AIDS patients in the country**

†1377. SHRI JANARDAN DWIVEDI:  
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of AIDS patients is constantly increasing in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 28 patients have been found HIV positive in Gaya district of Bihar; and

(c) if so, the effective measures taken by Government for prevention of AIDS in the country?

**Hardships faced by Government employees in private hospitals**

1378. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether serving employees of the Central Government have to pay first for their treatment in private hospitals, if referred by CGHS, and then make their claims for refunds later;

(b) whether Government employees are put to hardship under this rule;

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to enable the Government employees to get treatment without paying anything in private hospitals in all types of treatments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Diseases due to tobacco products**

†1379. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of gutkha and tobacco is injurious to health, if so, the different kinds of diseases likely to be caused because of their consumption;

(b) whether Government have adopted any system to inform and warn the people of the country in this regard, if so, the details of such system; and

(c) the number of persons who have been victims of cancer or any other disease due to consumption of gutkha and tobacco during the last three years and the number of the persons out of them who died, State-wise?

**Opening of new CGHS dispensaries**

1380. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY  
SIRIGIREDDY:  
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO:

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

(a) the details of CGHS dispensaries in the country, State-wise;

(b) what are the norms to open a CGHS dispensary in any area;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of running CGHS dispensaries in double shift, at least, in major cities of the country to begin with; and

(d) if so, in how many CGHS dispensaries of the country, Government are thinking to start double shift?

**Treatment of diabetes**

1381. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA  
RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one community in Rajasthan has the answer to diabetes;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether any study is proposed to be conducted to find out the exact cause thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

#### **Female condoms**

1382. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to introduce female condoms for birth control and for preventing AIDS in India; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to supply the female condoms in view of the ever-growing population in the country?

#### **Medical aid to BPL families**

†1383. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether Government have received the Report of Shankar Roy Chaudhary Committee constituted by Government;

(b) if so, whether recommendation has been made to limit the Government medical aid only to the families living below poverty line;

(c) if not, the facts in this regard; and

(d) the suggestions made in the above report for reforming medical system in the country?

#### **Increase in spending on Health**

1384. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

DR. KARAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to increase health spending from 0.9% to 2% of the GDP in next few years;

(b) if so, whether, according to PM, a beginning has been made in this year's Budget by increasing it by Rs. 2000 crores;

(c) if so, whether the Health Mission aims to provide health care facilities to the poor by making architectural correction in the basic health care delivery system; and

(d) if so, to what extent this Health Mission has been successful?

#### **Deaths of patients in Government hospitals**

1385. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of T.B. AIDS, Hepatitis B and Malaria patients have lost their lives due to inadequate facilities and inappropriate medicines for the poor persons in all Government hospitals in Delhi and other Government hospitals in the country during the last two years and current year, so far;

(b) if so, the number of patients who died in the various Government hospitals in the country during this period; and

(c) the steps being contemplated by Government to provide treatment of international standard to the patients suffering from various diseases in various Government hospitals in the country?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**New drugs in traditional medicines**

1386. SHRI MANOJ  
BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI C. RAMA-  
CHANDRAIAH:

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

(a) whether India and China are contemplating joint efforts to develop new drugs in traditional medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard between the two countries; and

(d) by when the work in this regard is likely to be started and which diseases are to be targeted initially?

**Smoke free zones**

1387. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Medical Association has declared all its centres across the country as 'Smoke-free-zones' with effect from June, 2005;

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

(c) whether it has also appealed to all the doctors to give up smoking, at least publicly; and

(d) whether Government propose to ban smoking in hospitals and if so, the details thereof?

**Opening more hospitals**

†1388. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have set any target for opening more hospitals during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(d) by when the work of opening these new hospitals would be started?

**Recognition to foreign medical degree**

1389. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

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

(a) whether the Medical Council of India recognizes degrees from China University (Mainland China) for the equivalent of M.B.B.S.;

(b) if so, the details of the view of the M.C.I. in this regard;

(c) whether Government will standardize all foreign medical degrees to help students who cannot afford medical education in India; and

(d) the steps proposed to develop a clear cut policy in this regard?

**Gauge conversion projects**

1390. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) the details of the railway line gauge conversion projects sanctioned by Government during the last five years, year-wise, State-wise and the current status of each project;

(b) whether a number of such sanctioned projects remain to be implemented;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Hubli-Ankola broad gauge project, though sanctioned, has so far not been implemented; and

(e) if so, the targeted date for implementation of the project?

#### **Rail projects in Madhya Pradesh**

†1391. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made, so far, regarding railway projects in Madhya Pradesh such as Mahoba-Khajuraho and Lalitpur-Satna rail projects;

(b) the amount sanctioned, so far, for this purpose since the beginning of the projects; and

(c) by when the above projects would be completed?

#### **Speed of trains in South Central Railways**

1392. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trains in South Central Railways are exceeding safe speeds;

(b) if so, whether a review will be done

to correlate and fix the best possible speed and the track;

(c) what technical assistance has been sought by South Central Railways to study and fix appropriate speed for trains to enhance safety and reduce train derailments; and

(d) the details of steps being taken by Government to reduce derailments in South Central Railway?

#### **Loss being suffered by Railways**

†1393. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of annual loss being suffered by Railways at present;

(b) the steps being taken including advertisements by his Ministry to meet the loss;

(c) the amount being earned by Railways through advertisements at present; and

(d) the measures to be taken by Government to increase its income?

#### **Doubling of Ghaziabad-Dehradun rail line**

†1394. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for laying double railway tracks via Ghaziabad-Meerut-Muzaffarnagar-Roorkee-Haridwar-Dehradun;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when this work is likely to be started?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Development of metro stations as Mega Terminal**

†1395. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for developing New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai Railway Stations as a world class 'Mega Terminals' is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

**Food served in three tier A.C.**

†1396. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the food served to passengers in reserved compartments of three tier A.C. trains is of very poor quality for which the caterers not only charge arbitrary prices but also do not give any bills;

(b) if so, whether Government have ever endeavoured to check its quality;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Gwalior-Jaipur Express**

†1397. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the concerned State Government have urged upon Government several times to start Gwalior-Jaipur express train;

(b) if so, whether the same suggestion

has been forwarded again recently on June 29, 2005;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered the proposal, so far; and

(d) by when this express train is likely to be started?

**Change in the time schedule of Kaifiyat Express**

†1398. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not enforcing the proposed changes in the time schedule of 4025/4026 Kaifiyat Express since 1st July, 2005;

(b) whether his ministry has fixed the time-table of the said train keeping in mind that it reaches New Delhi around seven O' clock in the morning even after its proposed halts in Barabanki, Ayodhya and Akbarpur;

(c) if so, the reasons for non-implementation of the proposal; and

(d) if not, by when the said proposal for change in schedule alongwith halt points, would be implemented?

**Irregularities and corruption in Northeast Frontier Railway**

1399. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:  
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that serious irregularities and prevalence of rampant corruption in Northeast Frontier Railways has been brought to the notice of Government and if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government and CVC have not taken any cognizance of the complaints in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the life of complainant is in danger from Railways authorities/contractors, etc. since he has disclosed irregularities/corruption; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to get the complaints investigated and to take steps to protect life of the complainant?

#### **Security to rail passengers**

1400. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether maintenance of law and order and providing security to rail passengers and their belongings are the responsibility of State Governments, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP);

(b) whether Indian Railways bear 5 per cent of the expenditure incurred by each State on GRP;

(c) if so, the total amount the Railways owe to each State in this regard as on 31st March, 2005, with particular reference to Maharashtra; and

(d) by when this amount is likely to be paid to the States concerned by the Railways?

#### **Shortage of skilled engine drivers**

1401. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are acute shortages of skilled engine drivers in the Indian Railways and therefore

Government have decided to give extension to retiring rail drivers for further one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the requirement of skilled engine drivers for the Indian Railways in the next five years and how will it be met by Government?

#### **Gauge conversion between Rangia to Murkhoselek**

1402. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons why the gauge conversion work between Rangia to Murkhoselek is not taking place; and

(b) by when the work is going to be taken up by Government?

#### **Sub-standard foodstuff in Shatabdi trains**

†1403. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA:

PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received by Government regarding sub-standard quality of food-stuffs being served in Shatabdi trains and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(b) the action being taken by Government to improve the food quality alongwith the action being taken against sub-standard food material suppliers; and

(c) the reasons for providing mineral water of private companies in Shatabdi trains despite the availability of 'Rail Neer'?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.



**Tenders of work of Silchar-Lumding track conversion**

1404. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tenders have been invited for work of Silchar-Lumding track conversion;

(b) whether the work order has been given to the lowest bidder; and

(c) the details as to how many local and small contractors were awarded work order to carry out the work?

**Facilities at Silchar Railway Stations**

1405. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Silchar Railway Station is in 'A' category as per revenue earning and passenger traffic;

(b) if so, whether it has required facilities viz. computerized 24 hours enquiry, sufficient number of computerized booking-cum-reservation counters, tatkal booking, toilets, sitting arrangements, refreshment facilities, etc. and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government plan to take for providing required facilities and by when?

**Schemes for Tamil Nadu**

1406. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the pending schemes and new schemes initiated in Tamil Nadu with their

outlay and probable time-frame for completion;

(b) whether there is any order of priority of these schemes and they are listed as per priority;

(c) whether in completing the broad gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu, there has been undue delay besides the existence of big regional imbalance; and

(d) whether there would be an all out effort with retrospective effect to complete the broad gauge conversion works?

**Overbridge at Morappur**

1407. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work on railway overbridge at Morappur railway station in Dharmapuri station has not started although the matching grant has clearly been given by Tamil Nadu Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the work regarding construction of overbridge will be completed?

**Acute shortage of drinking water at railway stations**

1408. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of drinking water at various railway stations being faced by 98 per cent of the passengers; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to address the situation?

**Reconstruction of outlived rail bridges/culverts**

†1409. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is unsafe to operate trains on a number of such rail bridges/culverts as these have outlived their normal life;

(b) if so, the scheme of Government to reconstruct such bridges/culverts; and

(c) the number of such rail bridges/culverts which need immediate attention from safety point of view?

**New Catering Policy**

†1410. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:  
SHRI PYARELAL  
KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to formulate a New Catering Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the New Catering Policy would be formulated?

**Establishment of Railway Recruitment Board Office at Bilaspur**

1411. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from State Government for establishment of Railway Recruitment Board Office at Bilaspur;

(b) if not, whether Government would

consider a Railway Recruitment Office at Bilaspur considering strong public demand to cater to the needs of the unemployed and educated youth of the State; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Gauge conversion in North-Eastern Region**

1412. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of metre gauge conversion works into broad gauge which has been completed in the North Eastern Region, State-wise/zone-wise/route-wise;

(b) the details of such rail lines in the regions, area-wise; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for development and expansion of railway lines in NER?

**Insurance fund of Railways**

1413. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the corpus of insurance fund of the Railways as on 31st March, 2005;

(b) the amount received in the fund annually during the last three years ending 31st March, 2005 and the amount spent from the fund, annually during the same period;

(c) whether the *ex-gratia* grant given by the Railways to the accident victims is met from the insurance fund or from the general revenues of the Railways; and

(d) the *ex-gratia* grant given to accident victims during the last three years ending 31st March, 2005, year-wise?

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Prices of coking coal and iron-ore**

†1414. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR  
PRASAD:  
DR. MURLI MANOHAR  
JOSHI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to decrease in the prices of iron-ore and coking coal, the prices of steel have decreased;

(b) if so, the extent of decrease in the prices of iron-ore and coking coal in June and July, 2005; and

(c) the evaluation regarding effect on the cost of steel production in the country due to this decrease?

**Guidelines on allotment of iron-ore mines**

1415. DR. T. SUBBARAMI  
REDDY:  
PROF. ALKA BALRAM  
KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government are considering to bring new guidelines on allotment of iron-ore mines to remove anomalies in current system;

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

(c) whether to rectify these anomalies, Government have constituted expert group for formulating national guidelines on criteria for granting approval of mining leases relating to iron-ore, manganese-ore and chrome-ore; and

(d) if so, by what time this group is likely to submit its recommendations to Government?

**MoU with POSCO**

1416. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:  
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Orissa and Korean steel giant POSCO have signed an MoU for setting up a 10 MT plant at Paradip;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the inflow of FDI in this case;

(c) the share of Government of Orissa in management of the plant and in finances; and

(d) the likely date of commercial production and how the cost of production would compare with existing plants?

**Merger of IISCO with SAIL**

1417. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the merger of Indian Iron and Steel Co. with SAIL and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether merger will help SAIL to scale up crude steel production and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether SAIL will get control of iron-ore and coal reserves and if so, to what extent the production will increase; and

(d) how much amount SAIL will infuse in IISCO to make it profitable?

**Preventing delays in implementing POSCO deal**

1418. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project signed by the Government of Orissa with Korean Steel Co. will create around 13,000 jobs directly and estimated 35,000 indirectly in related sector like ancillaries;

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†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) whether Government of India will suitably advise the Government of Orissa to ensure that no delay in the implementation of the project takes place; their experience gained in similar projects earlier; and
- (c) if so, whether Government possess model guidelines in this regard based on (d) if not, whether Government would start such an exercise immediately, so as to eliminate any avoidable delay?

NEW DELHI;  
*The 30th July, 2005*  


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*Shravana 8, 1927 (Saka)*

YOGENDRA NARAIN,  
*Secretary-General.*

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(Ministry-wise)

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