

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 5, 2002/Agrahayana 14, 1924 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Prime Minister; Agro and Rural Industries; Atomic Energy;
Communications and Information Technology; Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution; External Affairs; Labour;
Parliamentary Affairs; Personnel, Public Grievances and
Pensions; Planning; Road Transport and Highways;
Small Scale Industries; Space; Statistics and
Programme Implementation)

Total number of questions—138

Programmes for employment generation

1651. DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND
RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether KVIC has launched district
special employment programme and block
development programme in backward
districts of Andhra Pradesh for
employment generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far these programmes have
succeeded in generating employment in
backward districts of the State?

Cluster development programme in Andhra Pradesh

1652. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND
RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what initiatives Government have
taken to provide more employment
opportunities in rural areas and to promote
rural industries in the country;

(b) the steps taken to improve village
industries in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) what is the cluster development
programme; and

(d) what assistance has been extended
under the cluster development programme
to the State?

Structural reforms in agro industries

1653. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of rural and agro
industries;

(b) to what extent the structural reforms
initiated in 1991 have affected growth of
the agro and rural industries;

(c) whether the reforms have
strengthened these industries;

(d) if so, in what manner; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to
improve performance of these
industries?

Economic package for cottage industries

1654. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any effective action plan or economic package for promotion and development of cottage and small scale industries in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of such industries; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

Steps to promote ARIs

1655. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken by Government to promote agro and rural industries after emergence of WTO policies; and

(b) if so, the action plan worked out by Government to keep pace with the world market?

Separate policy for ARIs

†1656. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering formulations of a separate policy for development of agro, rural and very small industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said policy would be implemented?

Foreign investment in nuclear power programme

1657. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has expressed its willingness to invite foreign investment in its nuclear power programme;

(b) if so, whether certain countries have shown interest in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Disposal of nuclear waste

1658. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present system of disposal of nuclear waste; and

(b) whether the method followed by in the country is as per the international standards and the norms followed by the developed countries?

Nuclear technology for health care

1659. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to develop nuclear technology for health care and food securities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it would be implemented; and

(d) what would be the cost of these projects?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Threat posed by uranium radiation to the lives of Adivasis in Meghalaya

1660. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the infection of mysterious diseases caused by radiation in villages situated around uranium rich Domiasiyal area in Meghalaya is increasing and the cases of TB and Asthma are increasing in tribal population there alongwith premature ageing and the incidents of deaths; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken/proposed to be taken for protecting life and health of tribal population of the area?

Disruption of STD services

1661. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that STD services were disrupted between Delhi and various cities in the last week of October, 2002;

(b) what were the technical reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have made any estimate of revenue loss to BSNL and MTNL all over the country due to such disruption;

(d) if so, whether any steps are proposed to avoid such disruptions in future; and

(e) the details of the measures proposed by MTNL and BSNL?

Status of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana

1662. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) how far it has succeeded in the State?

Express Parcel Post Service in A.P.

1663. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of Express Parcel Post Service in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) how many post offices are providing this service in the State with district-wise details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to popularise the service in the State?

Disinvestment of VSNL

1664. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. was disinvested recently and sold off to the Tatas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are still trying to force some unreliable decisions on the new owners; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Cultural heritage digital library

1665. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned Rs. 86 lakh to the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) to create a cultural heritage digital library in Hindi as reported in the Press;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider creating similar heritage digital library in other languages, including Telugu, to be used by all the citizens of the country;

(d) if so, whether Government have fixed any time-frame for such an exercise; and

(e) what are the other areas to be covered therein?

Government accommodation on medical grounds

1666. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cases are pending with the Department of Posts for providing Government accommodation on medical grounds for the last one year while the applicants have already submitted all requisite papers relating to illness from Government hospital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that officials of the department are harassing applicants for allotment while the other Ministries/ Departments are allotting accommodation on medical grounds; and

(d) what are the reasons therefor?

Norms for allotment of STD/ISD PCOs

1667. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms have been laid down for allotment of STD/ISD PCOs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints about allotment of PCOs in the recent past; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken in the matter?

Quality of telecom service

1668. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the overall level of quality of service in the Indian Telecom Sector has been found to be poor despite registering impressive growth in the past few years;

(b) if so, whether the TRAI has found in its first survey on quality standards that private operators were providing comparatively better quality of service than BSNL and MTNL;

(c) if so, the details of the said survey report; and

(d) the action taken by Government to improve the quality of service in the Indian Telecom Sector?

Regularisation of Data Entry Operators

1669. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication and MTNL have been separated;

(b) whether Data Entry Operators have been working on contract basis in the Department of Telecommunication since February, 1999 and they have not been regularised, so far;

(c) whether Government would regularise their services; and

(d) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

Opening of post offices

1670. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened during the year 2002-03;

(b) how many new post offices are proposed to be opened in Karnataka during the above period; and

(c) how many post offices are proposed to be computerised in Karnataka during the above period?

Demand for reduction in licence fee

1671. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private cellular operators have recently, demanded reduction of licence fee burden and permission to install adequate spectrum for superior service at lower costs;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Indian cellular operators were offering the lowest tariffs in the world despite prohibitive regulatory costs which are highest in the world;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Electronic telephone exchanges

1672. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the electronic telephone exchanges set up in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and NER during the last three years;

(b) the details of the funds earmarked, disbursed and utilised so far for the said purpose during this period; and

(c) the details of the plan formulated for setting up of more electronic telephone exchanges in these States during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

Teledensity through WLL technology

1673. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is possibility to increase teledensity through WLL technology at comparatively lesser cost than the fixed telephone lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof with elucidation in comparative terms the salient features of the fixed line telephone and WLL-technology based telephone;

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the tele-density adopting WLL technology within the next two financial years;

(d) whether Government are considering to achieve the target through reduced rent and tariff on WLL based telephones; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Personal computer density in the country

1674. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that computers play a vital role in Information Technology;

(b) if so, what is the current sweep and reach of computers in commercial and domestic segments in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cost of personal computers is still beyond the reach of the common men;

(d) if so, the steps initiated to increase the PC-density particularly in Home Office Segment;

(e) whether Government would consider long-term credit facility on easy terms/tax concession as a means to enhance PC-density; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Telephone arrears

1675. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has to realise telephone arrears from many companies;

(b) if so, the details of the arrears against each company since January, 2001, State-wise;

(c) whether any concrete efforts have been taken/initiated by Government to collect such arrears; and

(d) if so, the details and results thereof?

Rise in internet use

1676. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only nine per cent rise in internet use in Government services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rise is on expected lines;

(d) if so, the figures in this regard;

(e) if not, the reasons for only nine per cent increase in internet use in Government services; and

(f) the details of the efforts to be taken up by his Ministry to increase internet use in Government services?

Funds for Rural Telephony obligations in H.P.

1677. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sought from Planning Commission for meeting the Rural Telephony Obligations in Himachal Pradesh, particularly, in far-flung and

backward areas in the State for the year 2002-03;

(b) the amount approved by the Planning Commission; and

(c) how the resources would be met for the Rural Telephony?

Waiting list for telephone connections in H.P.

1678. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connections in each telephone exchange in Kangra and Mandi Districts of Himachal Pradesh as on the 31st October, 2002 and since when;

(b) what steps Government have taken to provide telephone connections to the wait listed persons; and

(c) whether Government have received any complaints for non-availability of STD facility in Jaisinghpur Exchange; if so, what measures Government have taken to solve this problem?

Feasibility report on VPT

1679. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has been assigned the task of detailed feasibility report on achieving the Village Public Telephone (VPT) targets;

(b) whether the report has since been received;

(c) if so, what are the recommendations and suggestions made therein; and

(d) if not, by when the report is expected to be received?

Foreign currency exchange facility in Post Offices

1680. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start foreign currency exchange facility in some selected post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this step would help check illegal trade of foreign currency; and

(d) by when the said proposal would be implemented?

Storage of foodgrains by private contractors

1681. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains are being stored with private contractors as FCI godowns were overflowing; and

(b) the reasons for which the excess food stocks are not being distributed to the States as part of the Food for Work Programme?

Failure of PDS in Andhra Pradesh

1682. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that PDS in Andhra Pradesh has virtually failed due to inability of the State Government to ensure that PDS items reach to the actual beneficiaries and also due to various scams of diverting PDS items to open market;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what remedial measures Government propose to take to save the PDS system in the State?

Foodgrain stock

1683. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the existing foodgrain stocks in the country;
- (b) the details of minimum necessary buffer stocks;
- (c) the expenditure incurred in accumulation and maintenance of one million tonne of stock per day; and
- (d) what are the steps taken by Government to disburse the excess stocks?

Procurement of foodgrains in Tripura

1684. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Food Corporation of India has any plan to procure foodgrains in Tripura during the current harvesting season;
- (b) if so, the number and locations of the purchasing centres selected alongwith support price thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Allotment of damaged wheat to Rajasthan for cattle feed

1685. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Government of Rajasthan for allotment of damaged wheat free of cost from the FCI for being used as cattle feed in view of scarcity of fodder in the State due to prevailing drought situation;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by Government in this matter?

Sugar industry crisis in Uttar Pradesh

†1686. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Sugar Mill Association has demanded Central intervention in order to rescue the crisis ridden sugar industry of Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) Government's reaction thereto?

Functioning of PDS

1687. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which PDS is functioning in the country;
- (b) whether Government have streamlined the PDS to serve the drought affected population in the drought-hit States; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Task Force for monitoring PDS

1688. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
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 Government have set up a Task Force to keep a vigil on complaints of starvation deaths, diversion or recycling of foodgrains meant for the PDS;

(b) if so, when such a Task Force was set up;

(c) whether it has become functional;

(d) if so, the number of irregularities found so far;

(e) whether his Ministry is thinking of expanding the Antyodaya Scheme to more BPL families; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

BPL families

1689. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States have since identified the families living Below Poverty Line;

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

(c) if not, by when the States would complete this exercise; and

(d) the manner in which the BPL families would get the benefits that is due to them, where the identification of the BPL families has not yet been done?

Allocation of foodgrains under PDS

1690. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the basis for allocation of foodgrains to the States under PDS;

(b) whether there have been instances during the last two years, when a State has been allocated more foodgrains than its quota;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether such additional allocations affected the routine allocation to the other States?

Allocation of foodgrains for various schemes

1691. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of foodgrains in each of the Mid-day Meal Scheme for poor children, Annapoorna Yojana for poor senior citizens, food for work in drought hit areas and subsidised scheme for SC/ST/OBC students' hostels during the last four years or their inception, year-wise;

(b) whether there are mismatches in allocations and offtake;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed by Government to remove mismatches either by decreasing allocation or by encouraging desired offtake?

Sharing of transportation cost of foodgrains

1692. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether high expenditure on transportation is coming in the way of procurement by FCI for Public Distribution System in the different States; and

(b) the action proposed to share the high expenditure on transportation with the State Governments to make PDS successful?

Buffer stock of sugar

1693. SHRI B. J. PANDA: MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

(a) whether it is proposed to build up two million tonne sugar buffer stock;

(b) whether it is a time bound programme; if so, the details thereof with outlay involved; and

(c) whether there have been problems faced by the farmers to receive arrears from the sugar mills or cases of short payment to them; if so, the action taken by Government to help them out?

Foodgrains for PDS

†1694. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains required

for distribution under PDS for the families living below and above poverty line in various States, particularly, in Bihar and Jharkhand during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the quantity demanded, allocated and actual offtake by the said States during the above period;

(c) the actual price of the foodgrains during the said period and the price at which these foodgrains were provided to the families living Below Poverty Line; and

(d) the positions of FCI with regard to profit and loss in the process?

Withdrawal of rice from FCI godowns

1695. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has proposed to the Centre that it should be allowed withdrawal of rice from the Food Corporation of India godowns within the State; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

Clearance of Sugarcane dues by sugar mills

1696. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the quantum of dues the sugar mills in the country owe to the sugarcane growers, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to ensure clearance of dues by the sugar mills in a time bound programme to avert unhappy situation?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Problems of sugar industries

1697. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar factories have become sick and are not paying dues to the sugarcane growers;

(b) the amount of sugar accumulation in the country;

(c) whether Government have any immediate plan to sell sugar in the international markets and thus release the locked up money and create liquidity in the sector;

(d) whether Government plan any strategy to help the sugarcane growers to receive economical price for their farm products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Atrocities on Indian prisoners

†1698. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in Dainik Bhaskar dated the 1st September, 2002 under the caption "Julmon Ne Pagalpan Ki Had Tak Pahunchaya Bhartiya Qaidiyon Ko";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts Government are making for release of these prisoners?

Prime Minister's US visit

1699. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister visited the United States in early September to join the Commemoration of the September 11, tragedy;

(b) whether he had a special meeting with President Bush;

(c) if so, the issues which surfaced in the bilateral discussion;

(d) whether President Bush sought India's support to his efforts to oust Saddam Hussain regime from Iraq and the Gulf area; and

(e) if so, the stand taken by the Prime Minister in this regard?

Debarring former Punjab Chief Minister from US visa

1700. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government has declared the former Punjab Chief Minister, Rajinder Kaur Bhattal to be permanently ineligible to receive a U.S. visa;

(b) if so, the facts and circumstances leading to the decision; and

(c) Government's reaction in regard thereto?

Terrorist training camps in Bangladesh

1701. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has handed over a list of 99 terrorist camps operating in Bangladesh where anti-Indian terrorists are trained;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Bangladesh Government's reaction thereto; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to persuade the Government of Bangladesh to take effective action in this regard?

Regional dialogue with USA

1702. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the United States have started a new regional dialogue on a wide range of issues;

(b) if so, whether the purpose of the dialogue was the US role in Asia was expanding and India wanted more information about Washington's plans and what it was doing;

(c) whether India is satisfied with the talks held with US; and

(d) if so, the details of the discussion held between the two countries uptill now?

Neighbourhood economic policy

1703. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is working on a neighbourhood economic policy;

(b) if so, the detail of the policy and in what way it is different from the usual foreign policy; and

(c) the countries those are being associated in the policy?

Venue of SAARC Summit

1704. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the next meetings of the

SAARC is going to be held in Islamabad in January, 2003;

(b) whether almost all the SAARC member countries have agreed upon the venue;

(c) whether this has come as a diplomatic setback for India having lobbied for an alternative venue; and

(d) whether India is likely to decline the invitation?

Export of sensitive material to Iraq

1705. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the dossier presented by the British Prime Minister in the House of Commons last month, on an Indian company found involved in export of sensitive material to Iraq to help its chemical weapons programme;

(b) whether this company was under watch for a long time;

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking preventive measures to check export of such sensitive cargo;

(d) whether Government have ordered any inquiry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the findings thereof?

Missing Indians in UAE

1706. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received representations on missing persons working in United Arab Emirate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in finding such persons;

(d) whether it is a fact that Indian Embassy is slow in activating itself to search and locate the missing persons; and

(e) what steps Government are taking to expedite enquiries and action on missing persons, particularly Indian women workers?

Meeting with Muslim leaders hosted by American Embassy

1707. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the American Embassy recently hosted a meeting in Delhi with the prominent Muslim leaders;

(b) whether Government's formal permission was sought for the meeting;

(c) whether any Government's representative was invited in the meeting; and

(d) whether Government are in possession of its deliberations and if so, the details thereof?

Foreign diplomats' visit to J.&K. during Assembly election

1708. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether diplomats based in New Delhi from various countries visited Jammu and Kashmir to witness the Assembly election in militancy torn State;

(b) if so, the number of diplomats with names of the countries who visited there;

(c) whether they have given any reports/impressions on polling/elections in the State; and

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

Foreign policy

1709. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the features of Government's foreign policy;

(b) how far this policy has helped in strengthening relations especially with Asian countries;

(c) whether Government propose to bring changes in its foreign policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Trade between India and Afghanistan

1710. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 250 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 2002 and state:

(a) the other alternative routes of trade between India and Afghanistan; and

(b) the details of the items which are traded between both the countries?

Economic co-operation with Japan

1711. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of India's proposed economic co-operation with Japan, which was agreed by the Prime Minister during his meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister in September this year;

(b) the details of the proposed joint fight of India and Japan against global terrorism; and

(c) what is the current status of the ongoing developmental projects in the country with Japanese collaboration?

**Steps by India to join
G-8 Nations**

1712. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to take by Government to make India as one of the countries of the G-8 Nations;

(b) whether any diplomatic and political success achieved in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Pendency of applications at RPO,
Ahmedabad**

1713. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Passport Offices in Gujarat indicating their locations;

(b) the number of applications pending in these offices for issue of passports; and

(c) whether Government intend to open more passport offices to meet requirement of the State?

Prime Minister's Maldives visit

1714. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the bilateral ties worked out in different fields for mutual interest during the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Maldives; and

(b) the agreements arrived at to boost co-operation in tourism between both the countries?

**Expert group meetings between India
and China**

1715. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meetings of the expert group of India and China held in June, 2002, failed to sort out mutual differences with China on the 545 kms. long border in middle sector;

(b) whether Indo-China ties hinge on the border issue; and

(c) if so, what sincere efforts are being made by both the countries to strengthen their relations?

**Tripartite treaty among India, Russia
and Ukraine**

†1716. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Ukraine, Shri Leonind Kuchama has expressed his desire for a tripartite treaty among India, Russia and Ukraine during his recent four days visit to India;

(b) if so, whether India has since signed the said tripartite treaty;

(c) the areas identified for mutual co-operation under the said treaty; and

(d) the comprehensive details of the extradition treaty and the agreements on defence, legal assistance in criminal cases and developing trade relations already arrived at or proposed to be arrived at between India and Ukraine?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Missing Indian Employees in Saudi Arabia

1717. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT
RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are reports of missing Indian Employees in Saudi Arabia with the Indian Embassy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the action taken by Indian Embassy with the Saudi Arabia Government, in tracing the missing Indian Employees;

(d) whether Government have set up any vigilance over the agents in India and Saudi Arabia, who lure Indians for lucrative jobs and ultimately cheat them;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Free trade zone for ASEAN

†1718. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had made a proposal to ASEAN an organisation of ten South East Asian countries for creating a Free Trade Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are keeping in touch with the concerned countries; and

(d) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

Commercial agreements with Iraq

1719. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing commercial bilateral agreements with Iraq;

(b) whether Government have analysed impact of US attack on Iraq to covet crude stock bilateral agreements;

(c) if so, the steps taken to protect the commercial interest of India with Iraq; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding

1720. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding has not been awarded since 1995;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) how the prize money of Rs. 25 lakh has been utilized over the years since then; and

(d) whether any action is being taken to confer this award for the year 2001?

Attack on Indian Showroom in Nepal

1721. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a car showroom belonging to an Indian businessman in Kathmandu was attacked by Maoists causing damage to 22 vehicles and resulting a loss of Rs. 50 crores;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have obtained the details of attack; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken by Nepal Government/ authorities to punish the culprits?

Foreign visit

1722. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister and other Minister of the Union Government visited abroad from August, 2002 to till date;

(b) if so, the details of the each visit;

(c) the details of the persons/officials who accompanied them during these visit, separately;

(d) the expenses occurred during each visit Minister-wise and tour-wise, separately; and

(e) the outcome of each visit?

Indo-Iran gas pipe-line

1723. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Indo-Iran Gas Pipe-line Project has been held up due to the tension on the line of control; and

(b) if so, the action taken to safeguard the energy transit and regional pipe-lines in the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean to ensure security of the pipe-lines?

Response on National Labour Commission's report

1724. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply of Unstarred Question

No. 293 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not yet come out with a comprehensive response on the report;

(b) if so, by when Government are likely to come out with their response; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of such a comprehensive response several Ministers have been making different suggestions regarding liberal terms?

Streamlining and modification of labour laws

1725. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering streamlining and modification of nearly 50 labour laws to bring them in tune with the requirements of the changing economic scenario;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal alongwith the labour laws to be modified; and

(c) by when, a legislation in this regard is likely to be brought before the Parliament?

Daily wages for unorganised labour

1726. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unorganised labour on daily wages, on permanent basis in the rural sectors during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that these workers have no social security provisions and do

not enjoy any support system during their old age;

(c) whether the Second National Labour Commission has suggested effective measures for their old age provisions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to give effect to the same?

Changes in labour laws

1727. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'PHD calls for level playing field in labour laws' which appeared in The Hindu, dated the 22nd October, 2002;

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

(c) whether Government would ensure that changes in the existing labour laws should be allowed in consonance with the need of social security measures for labour togetherwith the security of tenure of the employees; and

(d) if so, the measures contemplated in this direction?

Utilisation of EPF fund for Housing Scheme

1728. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Employees Provident Fund accumulation would be utilised for Housing Scheme for EPF members;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other social security benefits proposed for the workers?

Implementation of Labour Commission's recommendations

1729. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 305 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 2002 and state:

(a) the recommendations on the issues which are not acceptable to the Unions; and

(b) the manner in which Government plan to resolve them and push through the long-standing reforms, which is vital for the growth and development of the Nation?

Contract workers' right

1730. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the existing labour laws considerable protection and justice is provided to the workers of the organised sector whereas the workers of the unorganised sector are fraught with injustice and without protection of their basic rights; and

(b) if so, whether Government plan to correct this anomaly and ensure protection of contract workers' rights?

Problems of street vendors

1731. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force set up to look into the problems of street vendors has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations;

(c) whether it has also recommended for amendment to the IPC and the Police Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Payment of compensation to the workers

1732. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Labour has recommended payment of uniform compensation to the workers being retrenched or laid off rather than differential rates of compensation based on the profitability of the unit;

(b) if so, what are the other recommendations of the Commission which are likely to be taken up for implementation;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to raise the floor level of employee-strength above which a company would have to seek the State Government's permission for retrenchment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Assistance to beedi labourers

1733. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to assist beedi labourers during the last six months in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such assistance given in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) what is the official machinery of the State Government which is responsible for welfare of beedi labourers; and

(d) the specific achievements towards welfare of beedi workers in the State during the last six months?

Agitation by trade unions

1734. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trade unions like AITUC, CITU and INTUC in a joint statement have blamed Government for not undertaking a thorough "appraisal of the economic policy" and also against its "globalisation policy and retrograde reforms";

(b) whether it is also a fact that they have threatened to launch a nation-wide satyagraha and jail bharo stir on the 8th January, 2003 followed by march to Parliament on the 26th February during the next Budget Session; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to avoid this?

Legislation for unorganised workers

1735. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seriously considering to formulate a legislation to regulate conditions of service for the workers in the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed legislation;

(c) whether the workers in the unorganised sector are deprived of their rights and also neglected completely; and

(d) if so, to what extent the proposed legislation is going to protect their rights?

Child labourers

1736. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of child labourers in the country;

(b) the various child labour abolition programmes undertaken by Government at present;

(c) whether Government propose to bring amendment in the Child Labour Prohibition of Regulation Act, 1986 to make it more purposeful; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Agricultural labourers

1737. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agricultural labourers in the country as per the latest census;

(b) what benefits have been provided to the agricultural labourers under the Social Security Scheme "Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana-2001"; and

(c) how many labourers have been covered under the scheme so far?

Investment of EPF

1738. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to restructure investment of Employees Provident Fund (EPF) to optimise its earnings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the subscribers to continue to get higher return on their money?

Increasing unemployment

1739. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of unemployment in the country has increased in the nineties *vis-a-vis* eighties;

(b) if so, the details for the rural and urban areas from 1999-2000 till date year-wise, and State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that decline in the employment growth for females has been higher than that of male during the same period; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan to arrest the trend and what are the resources to implement the same?

Review of labour laws

1740. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the process of consulting various sections for a review of the labour laws in the light of the Second National Labour Commission's recommendations;

(b) if so, the name of the sections whose representatives have been consulted so far; and

(c) the steps taken to evolve a consensus on the issues such as retrenchment, right to go on strike, social security, etc.?

Land for Housing Scheme for EPF members

1741. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken initiative to request the State Governments to provide land at cheaper rates for housing for workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to implement the scheme for the EPF members?

Night shopping in Delhi

1742. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to allow night shopping in Delhi, as per the media reports in the Times of India dated the 16th August, 2002;

(b) if so, the areas where this night shopping would be allowed and the hours of working of these shops; and

(c) whether this would not infringe the provisions of the shops and Establishment Act?

Labour Welfare Boards

1743. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Labour Welfare Boards have been constituted in the States to take care of the families of the unorganised labour who die in accidents at the work place;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the States or areas where these have been constituted so far;

(c) the source of funding and the amount of compensation paid to the families of the deceased; and

(d) the position with special reference to Orissa?

Recommendation of National Labour Commission

1744. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Second National Labour Commission;

(b) whether the Commission has recommended sweeping powers to the employers to retrench its workers, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Commission has also dwelt upon Holidays for Government employees and it is proposed to redraw the list of gazetted holidays, if so, the details thereof?

Investment of EPF assets

1745. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) has invested 80 per cent of its assets in a special deposit scheme which is paying only nine per cent interest and the fund would not be able to sustain a 9.5 per cent interest rate and would thus eat its surplus;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he has promised to pay 9.5 per cent interest rate to the EPF subscribers; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to cover up the gap?

Appointment of Lokpal

1746. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India during the cause of a recent judgement under scored the need for appointment of a Lokpal to ensure probity in public life;

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

(c) by when the institution of Lokpal is likely to be created and an incumbent put in place?

Right to Information in Government Departments

†1747. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the various Government Departments in which "Right to Information" is in force and since when;

(b) whether there is any legal provision for the same or only administrative orders have been issued in this regard;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration to implement it more effectively; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Downsizing Government staff

†1748. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to downsize Government staff;

(b) if so, whether Government have also decided to reduce the number of posts of the All India Services;

(c) if so, the percentage of posts to be reduced; and

(d) by when, the said decision would be implemented?

Secrecy in administration

†1749. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the statement made by the Attorney General of India to the effect that secrecy in the administration is

the main reasons for corruption prevalent there;

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

(c) the details of the measures taken by Government during the last three years to remove the secrecy in the administration and bring transparency therein?

Abolition of CAT and SATs

1750. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to abolish or to empower itself to abolish the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and to empower respective State Governments to abolish the State Administrative Tribunals (SATs) by amending the relevant Act;

(b) whether provision for the set of Administrative Tribunals was made following prolonged strike by Government employees for quick justice against arbitrary victimization on subjective grounds; and

(c) if so, the reasons for abolishing the CAT and SATs depriving the Government employees of the only means to secure quicker and speedier justice in matters of grievances against the administration affecting their services and pension matter?

Anti-corruption drive by CBI

1751. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI had undertaken national-wide anti-corruption drive recently;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the outcome of the drive; and
- (d) the further steps taken or likely to be taken by Government to curb corruption in the country?

Candidates selected by UPSC

1752. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons selected through various examinations conducted by UPSC during the last three years SC/ST/OBC/General category-wise and Exam-wise;
- (b) the number of candidates out of them who were selected on the basis of the reservation;
- (c) the number of candidates who availed reservation concession for the first time/twice/thrice or more than that;
- (d) whether these reserved category persons can again avail reservation in other examinations and in promotions; and
- (e) if so, how Government propose to do justice to the more meritorious candidates?

Pending proposal for gauge conversion

1753. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal for gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkongchalek section of NF Railway is pending with Planning Commission for clearance; and
- (b) if so, by when it is likely to be cleared?

Tenth Five Year Plan

†1754. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 314 given in Rajya Sabha on 21st November, 2002 and state whether it is a fact that the period of the Tenth Plan commences from April 2002 and the budget for the year 2002-2003 was also prepared in accordance with the draft of Tenth Plan?

Unemployed persons

†1755. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the unemployed persons in the country at present, State-wise; and
- (b) the details of the policies/measures/suggestions/directions formulated/given by the Central Government to the State Governments to eliminate unemployment from the country?

Clearance of pending projects of Bihar

1756. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of projects from Bihar pending with his Ministry for sanction;
- (b) what are the reasons for delay in according the sanction;
- (c) by when these projects are likely to be accorded sanction;
- (d) whether any requests have been received from the Bihar Government for according sanction to these projects;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(f) the action taken by Government in this regard and by when these projects are likely to be cleared?

National Vision 2020

1757. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Vision 2020 document, prepared by the Planning Commission has been presented to Government;

(b) if so, the points mentioned in the document;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has decided to work on broad areas and drawnout a development map for the country for the next two decades;

(d) if so, whether Government have accepted the document; and

(e) if so, what are the steps being taken to implement the same?

Regional imbalance

†1758. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed for removing regional imbalance particularly in backward areas during the last five year plans and the details of the achievements made in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that expected success has not been met in this regard; and

(c) if not, the facts in this regard and the details of the provisions being made to achieve success during the next five year plan?

Creation of prominent sinking fund

1759. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission propose the creation of a prominent sinking fund from part of the disinvestment proceeds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's response thereto?

Monitoring of economic reforms

1760. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission proposes to set up a steering group which would monitor implementation of economic reforms proposed in the Tenth Plan document;

(b) if so, whether the monitoring would be Ministry-wise;

(c) whether the Planning Commission would ask the Ministries to outline their approach and set deadlines for achieving this; and

(d) if so, to what extent it would be helpful in monitoring the reforms in each sector?

Poverty Alleviation programme in Andhra Pradesh

1761. SHRI C. RAMACHAND-RAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission had sponsored an evaluation

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

study on poverty alleviation programme in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the districts selected for the study and the criteria for the selection;

(c) the findings of the study;

(d) whether it is also a fact that banks were found to be indifferent to in providing credit to the poorest of the poor;

(e) if so, the number of beneficiaries who could not get the credit in sample districts; and

(f) how the Planning Commission proposes to overcome the problem of institutional lending to the poor?

Creation of jobs in Tenth Plan

1762. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create five crore additional jobs during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that seventy per cent of population depends on agriculture and there is scarcity of land while two per cent of the population in U.S.A. depends on agriculture and where there is abundant land; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government anticipate creation of more jobs in agricultural sector?

Failure of States during Ninth Five Year Plan

†1763. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States that failed to

perform upto the mark in implementation of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the reasons for unsatisfactory performance by these States, State-wise; and

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

Poverty level

1764. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether poverty level in the country came down to twenty-six per cent during the last decades ending 2000;

(b) if so, what was the poverty level during the decades ending 1990, 1980 and 1970 respectively; and

(c) the details of the long term measures being taken to bring down the poverty level in future?

Job opportunities in road sector

1765. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the thrust on road construction is proving to have strong backward linkages and is fueling big time growth in the economy;

(b) whether roads, culverts and bridges are the largest consumers of steel and building material leading to high demand for these inputs including creation of job opportunities; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the impact of these projects on the economy?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Funds for roads from World Bank

1766. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has provided 65 crores of rupees to his Ministry for development of roads in the year 2002 connecting Delhi-Mawana-Marapur-Bijnor-Janibabad-Kotdwar highways;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has awarded any tender for maintenance and widening of the said road because the said road is in a very dilapidated condition causing a great inconvenience to the people of the said region; and

(c) by when the work would be started and reasons for the delay?

Driving training system

1767. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an international conference on professionalism in driving training system was recently held in Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Conference also touched the points on the relevant laws and licensing system also, apart from driving; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Funds for road projects

1768. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided

to held up the second round of funding for road building under the Golden Quadrilateral and East-West and North-South corridor project;

(b) whether it was found that a few States had diverted funds meant for road building to other areas; and

(c) whether disbursements under the CRF kitty are going as per the schedule?

Suggestions of Road Safety Forum

1769. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India is not acting and responding positively to the various suggestions made by the Road Safety Forum to improve road safety;

(b) if so, what steps NHAI would take to co-operate and improve road safety in public interest;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Forum wants to suggest various measures to enhance road safety;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to get the matter examined at higher level; and

(e) what steps NHAI would take to carry along diverse opinions in this matter in public interest?

Problems due to expansion of roads

1770. SHRI S. M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the duty of the Director General of Roads to find engineering solutions to various problems being faced by the public due to expansion or

development of new roads and highways;

(b) if so, how many requests are pending with the Director General of Roads for finding engineering solutions of NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to study such problems;

(d) to what extent the Director General of Roads Development is not able to find adequate technical expertise for even relatively simple problems posed by the public; and

(e) whether Government would consider engaging expert staff to tackle such problems?

Deploying CISF at National Highways

1771. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering to deploy CISF at National Highways to prevent various crimes;

(b) if so, whether the National Highways in the country have been found to be prone to various crimes in the past few years and the concerned State Governments have failed to discharge their duties/responsibilities effectively; and

(c) if so, by when necessary provisions in the law would be made to enable CISF to discharge the highways patrol functions?

Investment by private sector for development of roads

1772. DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether Indian and foreign private sector companies have shown interest for investment in development of National Highways;

(b) if so, the number of works awarded to such firms during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what facilities and incentives are being given for private sector investment in highway sector?

Roads in Tamil Nadu

1773. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes taken up by his Ministry for development of roads in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the amount of funds allocated for such schemes during the current year; and

(c) the details of the progress of such schemes?

National Highway No. 78

†1774. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on construction and repair of Katni-Gumla National Highway No. 78 in Chhattisgarh during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) the amount spent out of the same for repair and construction of road in Jashpur district during each year;

(c) the names of the contractors to whom contracts for repair and construction of said road were given and the length of road allotted to them; and

(d) the details of the payments made to the contractors after checking the quality of works done and the details of works accomplished by them?

Upgradation of coastal roads in Gujarat

1775. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government have sent a proposal for upgradation of Mandvi-Nalia-Narayan Sarovar road, stretches of the coastal highways connecting the parts of Jakhau-Vadinar-Okha-Porbandar-Dholera road, Malia-Jamnagar-Okha-Porbandar-Veraval road and Bhavnagar-Vatanan-Borsad-Padra-Karjan road into National Highways on priority; and

(b) if so, by when the proposal is going to be accepted by Government?

Affairs of NHAI office at Agra

1776. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highway Authority of India has a field unit/work office at Agra; and

(b) if so, the details of officers/staff posted there alongwith the details of projects being handled by each of them and status thereof?

National Highway 57

†1777. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest status of construction of National Highway 57;

(b) the amount sanctioned by Government for highway during 2001-02 and 2002-03 and the works on which the same was spent;

(c) whether many parts of the highway are in a very bad condition and need to be strengthened urgently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action Government are taking in this regard?

Widening of Highways in Pauri Garhwal

1778. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of houses have been collapsed in Pauri Garhwal due to widening of highway from Pabau-Bishald Link Road;

(b) if so, the details of houses collapsed in above district during the last three years and the compensation paid to the victims at Bishald;

(c) if no compensation has been paid, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of representations received from the victims in this regard and by when Government propose to compensate them?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Restoring exemption limit for SSIs

1779. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Finance Ministry agreed to restore the exemption limit to Rs. 1 crore for the small scale sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has taken up the issue with the Finance Ministry for giving sales tax relief on electronic toys to the SSI sector; and

(d) if so, Finance Ministry's response thereto?

SSIs role in economy

1780. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the role played by the small scale industries in the economy today;

(b) how it differs from the role played in seventies and eighties;

(c) whether its role has diminished due to liberalisation of the economy; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Items reserved for SSI

†1781. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the items which have been kept in reserved list for SSI sector;

(b) the items which have been removed from the reserved list;

(c) whether Government intend to remove some more commodities from the reserved list; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Policy for promotion of SSIs

1782. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to formulate any policy for expansion and promotion of small scale industries in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the funds proposed to be sanctioned and likely to be released by Government to the various States during this Plan period; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Growth rate of SSIs

†1783. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate registered during first half of the current year in small scale industries;

(b) to what extent this growth rate has been more/less in comparison to last year;

(c) whether small scale sector has registered any decline during this period;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of items included in the small scale sector and how many more items are proposed to be included; and

(f) the efforts being made by Government to strengthen small scale sector?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Schemes for small and tiny sectors

1784. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes meant for benefits of the small and tiny sectors in the country;

(b) the manner which those schemes are going to benefit the small scale and tiny sectors of Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country; and

(c) the details of the loans sanctioned, disbursed and repayment made, State-wise, especially to Tamil Nadu, during the last five years?

Sick SSIs

†1785. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale units functioning as on date alongwith the capital investment made in these units;

(b) the number of sick units alongwith the capital investment made in such units; and

(c) the average annual loss incurred by small scale sector during last three years?

MPLADS fund

1786. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been made to double the allocation (Rs. 2 crore) to

Members of Parliament for Local Area Development Schemes; and

(b) if so, Government's response in this regard?

20 Point Programme

1787. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revamp the 20 Point Programme initiated in 1975;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether one-third of the schemes under the programme are proposed to be dropped; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Monitoring of projects

†1788. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing projects in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh which are being monitored by Government;

(b) the names and the costs thereof;

(c) the details of the projects which are likely to be completed in time; and

(d) the details of those projects which have been completed in time during the last three years?

NEW DELHI;

The 29th November, 2002

Agrahayana 8, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,

Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I N D E X
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