

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the December 5, 2003/Agrahayana 14, 1925 (Saka)*

(Ministries : Agriculture; Chemicals and Fertilizers; Environment and Forests; Food Processing Industries; Human Resource Development; Ocean Development; Railways; Science and Technology; Steel; Youth Affairs and Sports)

Total number of questions—143

Price support for saffron crop

342. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of
the fact that for the first time in four years,
Kishtwar's saffron farmers are expecting a
good saffron crop;

(b) if so, whether Government have
noticed the fact that official neglect has hit
the farmers' interests hard and they rarely
get the attention and the prices they deserve;
and

(c) if so, the efforts, Government
propose to make the Government-run
price support mechanism available for the
benefit of such farmers?

Assistance to Andhra Pradesh from NCCF

343. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh
Assembly has passed a unanimous
resolution requesting the Central
Government to immediately release

Rs. 996.12 crores from National
Calamity Contingency Fund and 15 lakh
tonnes of rice under the Swarna Jayanti
Grameen Rozgar Yojana to meet the need
of drought affected areas of the
State; and

(b) if so, the response of the Central
Government in this regard?

Promotion of organic farming

344. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that
Government have formulated a national
project on organic farming with an outlay
of Rs. 99.58 crore to improve the soil
health;

(b) whether the project envisages the
setting up of National Institute of Organic
Farming (NIOF) for the production,
promotion, market development and
regulation of organic farming in the country;
and

(c) if so, the details of the proposed
scheme?

Agriculture research and education centres

345. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1343, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 2003 and state:

(a) the details of basic infrastructure provided by the agriculture research and education centres; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to upgrade these research centres?

Insurance cover for yield and price fluctuations

346. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new insurance cover for yield and price fluctuations for farmers under a single policy;

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

(c) by when it is likely to be put in operation?

Assistance to SC/ST farmers of M.P.

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

(a) whether Government have decided to release the fund from the contingency fund to help the SCs/STs and Backward agriculturists in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Assistance to pest affected district Malkangiri, Orissa

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

(a) whether it is a fact that over 5000 families of farmers in the tribal dominated Malkangiri district of Orissa were in distress, on account of pest attacks on their crops which had, in turn, affected their livelihood; and

(b) whether the Centre has offered assistance to the cash-strapped State to compensate the affected farmers; if so, the details thereof?

All day milk stalls of DMS

349. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many DMS outlets running in Delhi by the name of 'All Day Milk Stalls';

(b) if so, whether these outlets have been opened as franchisee of DMS;

(c) if so, the number of outlets that are running in Delhi; and

(d) the amount of revenue earned by DMS as franchise deposits?

Survey of wheat varieties

350. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey of wheat varieties suitable for overseas market as well as for better yield is being conducted;

(b) if so, the result of such exercise;

(c) by when Government propose to introduce such varieties for commercial production; and
(d) the details thereof?

Boosting sale of DMS milk

351. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
(a) the percentage of milk in polypacks returned to Delhi Milk Scheme during the last three years, year-wise;
(b) the additional expenditure incurred in reprocessing of these polypacks;
(c) whether the sale of milk had decreased as a result of increase in prices and if so, the action taken to reduce it and boosting the sale; and
(d) the distribution losses reported during the last three years?

Shortage of milk in Delhi

352. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
(a) whether it is a fact that there was an acute shortage of milk in Delhi during last August;
(b) if so, the reasons therefor, especially in view of higher yield of milk by the milch animals in the area around Delhi during monsoon which was above average this year; and
(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that the capital does not face shortage of milk in future, particularly during the festival season?

Agriculture Technology Information Centres in U.P.

353. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
(a) the details of Agriculture Technology Information Centres set up in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;
(b) the details of expenditure incurred by Government for the above purpose during the last three years; and
(c) the steps taken by Government to provide training to farmers about the new technology?

Incentives to producers of export quality Basmati rice

†354. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
(a) the names of States which are producing export quality Basmati rice alongwith the details of the total production of such Basmati rice in the country every year;
(b) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to provide incentives to the States producing such Basmati rice; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

Agricultural contribution to GDP

355. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:
(a) how much agriculture sector is likely to contribute to country's total GDP in the year 2003-04;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) what would be its share in economic growth in percentage terms during the same period; and

(c) what future steps Government are initiating to strengthen infrastructure, so as to considerably enhance agricultural production during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Assistance to agricultural projects of States

356. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of financial assistance provided by the Central Government to the States, West Bengal in particular, during the last two years for the development and upgradation of agricultural projects?

Agricultural production *vis-a-vis* rainfall

357. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total level of rainfall in the country during the monsoon;

(b) the likely fall in the levels during this season; and

(c) its impact on agricultural production during this year?

KVKs in Tripura

358. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in each district of Tripura;

(b) the places of the State where these Kendras are going to be established; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in establishing these Kendras and the period by which they would be made functional?

Agricultural University in Tripura

359. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are going to set up an Agricultural University in Tripura; and

(b) if so, by when?

Agricultural performance

360. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite all natural advantages, India's productivity of foodgrains per hectare is no more than three-fourth of the world average and less than half of that in agriculturally advanced countries;

(b) whether only five States namely Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, produce more grains than their requirement and more than two-third of the population lives in States that are still food-deficit;

(c) if so, whether Government have made efforts to find the reasons for its poor agricultural performance; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

Starvation deaths

361. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any reports of starvation deaths from Bihar,

Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and other States during the current year;

(b) if so, the details of such reports from different States; and

(c) whether it is a fact that State Governments usually discount starvation deaths and find alibis saying deaths were not due to hunger but due to lack of medical facilities and different ailments like diarrhoea, caused by under nourishment?

Drip irrigation technology

362. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have taken any step or propose to take any step for providing new, effective and cheapest technology for the drip irrigation everywhere in the country to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Netafim, an Israeli firm with pioneering expertise in drip irrigation, has tied up with some Indian banks to facilitate loans for drip irrigation projects in the country; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

Donation to Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

†363. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal of providing an

additional donation of ten million dollars to Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research is under consideration during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the amount of regular donation being given annually to the institution;

(c) whether the operation of the said institute is being carried out from abroad;

(d) if so, the place of operation and the details of agricultural activities of the said institute;

(e) whether the country has got any advantage from the research conducted by this institution; and

(f) if so, the benefits accrued to Indian farmers from this institution for the development in the agriculture sector?

Effect of subsidy given by developed countries to farmers

†364. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2374, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the subsidy being given by America and other developed countries to their farmers on a large scale in agriculture sector is against the agreement with World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the subsidy by these countries could not be banned through World Trade Organisation; and

(c) if so, the future planning of India in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Contract farming

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to enact a law for contract farming under pressure from various companies;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have not consulted farmers' organisation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Modernisation of handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains

366. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step to modernize the system of handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains within the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Floriculture production

†367. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total production and the production per hectare in the floriculture sector in the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of the demand and production of flowers in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether Government propose to set

up a technology mission to increase the flower-production; and

(d) the names and other details of the Centrally sponsored schemes meant for increasing the flower-production in the country, specially in Bihar which faces natural calamities like flood every year?

Details of workshop on agriculture

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the observations made in a recent workshop on "The Role of Biotechnology in Agriculture" as to how biotech crops could improve farming competitiveness and reduce insecticide usage, its advantages in oil-conservation and enhanced productivity, improved water quality, etc.;

(b) if so, whether such suggestions are being adopted to further improve our agricultural productivity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Production of fruits and vegetables in Uttaranchal

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

(a) whether any specific scheme for increasing the production of fruits including apples grown in the moderate climate has been formulated for Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, the types of assistance proposed to be provided by Government to the State, in this regard?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Use of gas by urea producing units	to pay as insurance to the dependents of deceased; and
†370. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: SHRI LAJPAT RAI:	(e) why no responsibility for loss was fixed?
Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:	Availability of medicines at affordable prices
(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme of promoting the use of gas in place of Naptha as a fuel by urea producing units of the country;	372. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
(b) if so, the detailed outlines of the said scheme;	(a) whether Government are aware of general misgivings and galore conditions imposed under which patented medicines/ drugs would be available at affordable prices to developing countries under the WTO Agreement reached on 29th August, 2003;
(c) total number of industrial units of the country under this scheme which are likely to use gas in place of Naptha; and	(b) if so, whether Indian users or pharmaceutical companies would be in a position to draw the envisaged benefits without hassles and cumbersome procedures to adequately fight rising mass killer diseases like AIDS, TB, Malaria, etc.; and
(d) expenditure likely to be incurred by Government for the same?	(c) if so, how and what are the details thereof?
Amount paid towards insurance by IDPL	Package for FACT
371. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:	373. SHRI N.R. DASARI: SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
(a) whether Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Hyderabad Unit, got a group saving linked insurance scheme for 4181 employees from LIC in 1988;	Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:
(b) whether the company stopped payment of LIC premium realised from the salary of employees as a result of which policy lapsed with effect from April, 1992;	(a) whether the restructuring package for the ailing Fertilizer and Chemicals of Travancore (FACT), Cochin, has been approved by Government; and
(c) whether it is a fact that 154 employees died from May, 1992 to February, 2002 while contribution towards LIC was being deducted from their salaries but not being remitted to LIC; and	(b) if so, the details of the said package and steps being taken for its implementation?
(d) if so, how much amount IDPL had	

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Overdose of Paracetamol

374. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the findings of the Federal Drug Agency of US on the incidence of liver toxicity associated with overdose of Paracetamol, officially classified as prescription drug in India but is being sold over the counters;

(b) whether FDA of US has made it mandatory for the drug companies to display warning notice on label for Paracetamol; and

(c) whether India is considering to follow suit by introducing Mandatory Warning Label for Paracetamol?

Fertilizer capacity in the country

375. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the fertilizer capacity in the country-feedstockwise (gasbased/naphthabased);

(b) the fertilizer requirement of the country;

(c) whether the demand was depressed during the last three years due to bad monsoon; and

(d) if so, the amount of fertilizer that would have to be imported?

Progress in Assam Gas Cracker Project

*376. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state issues yet to be resolved and target set to complete all clearances towards implementation of Assam Gas Cracker Project showing progress made till date?

Liabilities for overcharging

377. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the recent judgement of the Supreme Court, the Drug Manufacturers have been asked to pay 50 per cent of their total liabilities for overcharging the bulk drug prices *vis-a-vis* notified price of the Government of India;

(b) if so, the names of the drug manufacturers/firms and their liabilities involved on the basis of Supreme Court judgement;

(c) the names of parties who have deposited their liabilities and the names of the defaulters as on 30th November, 2003; and

(d) the action Government have taken or propose to take against those companies who have not deposited their liabilities despite Supreme Court judgement?

Annual saving by decrease in cost of production

†378. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cost of production of Urea Producing Units will come down by using gas in place of Naptha as fuel;

(b) if so, to what extent the cost of production is estimated to be decreased; and

(c) extent to which the annual savings are assessed to be accrued following the decrease in cost of production assuming the existing production capacity as basis thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Animal disease

379. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the cases of dreaded animal disease foot and mouth have been reported from periphery of reserve forest of Corbett National Park;
- (b) if so, the number of cases reported, so far;
- (c) the effective steps taken to avert spreading of disease; and
- (d) the details in this regard?

Climate Technology Bazaar and Conferences

380. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Climate Technology Bazaar and Conferences under the Ministry were recently held in the capital;
- (b) if so, what decisions were taken to control pollution and adverse impacts of climate change; and
- (c) the steps being taken to get them implemented?

Disposal of hazards waste in the capital

381. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the capital generates one lakh tonnes of hazards waste per annum;
- (b) how they are being dumped; and
- (c) the permanent solution devised for

disposal of hazards waste generated by the capital?

Environmental clearance for Hydro Electric Power Projects

382. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Hydro Electric Power Projects submitted by the competent authority of Kerala State for environmental clearance are under consideration;
- (b) if so, the details and the status of such projects as on today;
- (c) whether the competent authority has taken any decision on environmental clearance of Pooyamkutty project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Tropical Botanical Garden Research Institute (TBGRI) has submitted the Environmental impact assessment report of the Pooyamkutty project; and
- (f) whether environmental clearance will be granted based on the above report; if not, the reasons therefor?

Action against poachers from Myanmar, Indonesia and Thailand

383. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that poachers from Myanmar, Indonesia and Thailand were straying into Indian Ocean at Andaman and Nicobar Islands and taking away crocodiles and other species; and
- (b) if so, the action taken to check such subversive activities?

**Setting up of Utkal Alumina
Project in Orissa**

384. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area proposed for setting up of the Utkal Alumina Project in Kashipur Block of Rayagada district in Orissa, has wildlife of the nature of Bears, and other mammals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any expert opinion from the leading wildlife conservation organisations has been obtained on the likely impact of this project on the wildlife, both flora and fauna; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Proposals under Forests Act 1980
from State Government of
Uttaranchal**

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

(a) total number of proposals for granting approval under Forests Act, 1980 received from the State Government of Uttaranchal during the last two years;

(b) whether all the said proposals have been granted approval; and

(c) if not, reasons for not granting approval and by when all these schemes would be approved?

Phasing out of use of CFCs

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

(a) whether it is a fact that India is committed to phasing out of use of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) which release ozone depleting Greenhouse gases (GHGs);

(b) whether it is also a fact that India will receive US \$52 million in aid to completely phase out the production and consumption of toxic chemical Carbon Tetrachloride; and

(c) if so, the details of funding?

**Special courts for environment
related cases in M.P.**

387. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open special courts in Madhya Pradesh for speedy disposal of environment related cases;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Air and sound pollution in Delhi
due to Metro Rail construction**

388. SHRI SK. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the average air and sound pollution in Delhi now and before the construction work of Delhi Metro Rail started;

(b) whether any notice has been served to the metro authority to contain the air and sound pollution created by them; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

NGOs involvement in bird conservation in Orissa

389. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the organisations in the non-governmental sector actively involved in bird conservation in the wild/natural habitats in the State of Orissa during the last 5 years alongwith details?

Recommendations of symposium on conservation of Wild Tigers in Orissa

390. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the major recommendations of the symposium on Conservation of Wild Tigers in Orissa, which was held at Bhubaneswar this year; and

(b) which of the recommendations have been accepted and implemented by Government?

Purchase of equipment to measure noise pollution levels in Delhi

391. SHRI ABANI ROY: SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have purchased equipment to measure noise pollution levels in the NCT of Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that hi-tech cops have been trained to crack down the noise pollution offenders who violates the

prescribed limits or play music too loudly after fixed timings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and how many offenders have been challaned during the last three months?

Setting up of a National Ecology Body

392. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to set up a National Ecological Body with six regional authorities to assist the National Body;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the functions and duties proposed to be assigned to them; and

(c) by when, these bodies are likely to be set up and start functioning?

Forest cover in Assam

393. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest cover maintained in Assam during each of last 10 years;

(b) the action taken to prevent future depletion of natural habitat of wild lives;

(c) the list of schemes and programmes being implemented through NGOs; and

(d) the location-wise list of NGOs and eco clubs in Assam granted assistance for Environment Education and under UNDP-GEF/CCF small grant programme indicating criteria of selection and grants released during the last three years to each organization?

**Violation of Delhi Tree
Preservation Act, 1995**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi's Department of Forests and Wildlife has sanctioned permission for felling or pruning of 45,219 trees over the past five years and the saplings supposed to be planted in lieu of each tree cut have either died without a trace or are yet to grow into full fledged greenery;

(b) if so, who is responsible for violation of provision of Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1995, stipulating 10 saplings to be planted in lieu of each tree cut or pruned; and

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for this lapse?

**Destruction of forest areas for
developmental projects**

395. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large forest areas had been destroyed during the last twenty years for various developmental projects like dams, mining operations and setting up of industries;

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

(c) whether loss of forest areas as a result of the developmental projects has been compensated by matching schemes of afforestation and development of National Parks/sanctuaries during the same period and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of the people living in the forest areas displaced as result of the developmental projects in the forest areas?

Full-time Director in IIFM

396. SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Forest Management is without a full-time Director for a very long time and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) by when the post is likely to be filled in on a regular basis; and

(c) whether the full-time Director would be selected from the Indian Forest Service so as to ensure functional and professional efficiency and if not, the reasons therefor?

Census of tigers

397. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the census figures for tigers in the wild, in the States of Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Nagaland forest, division-wise, since 1970 as per the various censuses conducted therein alongwith details of breakup of males, females, cubs, etc., for each of the censuses, for each of the forest divisions of each State; and

(b) the steps being taken for tiger conservation in the State of Gujarat?

Deer and Nurture parks in Andhra Pradesh

398. SHRI C. RAMACHADRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of private parties have shown interest in establishing deer parks and nurture parks in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details of the parks and their locations;
- (c) how many of them have been accorded sanction by the Central Zoo Authority; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Environmental clearance for new large construction project

399. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is all set to issue a notification which would require every new large construction project to set environmental clearance; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Meeting of National Board of Wildlife

†400. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the meeting of the newly constituted National Board of Wildlife held in Delhi recently, the concern on the smuggling of wild animals has been expressed and a number of suggestions were given to check the same as there is a great danger of extinction of valuable wild animals from the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to check the smuggling of these animals?

Proposals for construction works received from Government of Uttaranchal

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

- (a) the details of proposals of construction works received for approval from the State Government of Uttaranchal under Forests Act during the last three years;
- (b) whether all these proposals have been approved; and
- (c) if not, details of rejected proposals?

Improving the forest cover of the country

402. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are taking any measure to improve the forest cover of the country; and
- (b) whether the Ministry had taken any innovative methods to make forests richer and productive?

Financial Assistance to U.P. for increasing production of Non-Timber Forest Produce

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

- (a) the quantum of financial assistance provided to the State of Uttar Pradesh for increasing production of Non-Timber

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Forest produce including Medicinal Plants during the last three years as also for the current financial year;

(b) the actual amount utilized by the State Government for the purpose during the last three years; and

(c) whether financial assistance provided had been fully utilized, if not, the reasons therefor?

Permission for production of B.T. cotton on commercial level in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra

‡404. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given permission to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra to produce B.T. Cotton on commercial level;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have received report about the success of experiments carried out so far regarding the production of B.T. cotton in these states; and

(c) if so, the names of departments to which the said report belongs to and what has been mentioned in the report?

Assistance to FPIs in Southern States

405. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government extends financial assistance under the Plan Scheme for setting up Food Processing Industrial Units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of units extended financial assistance in Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States during the last four years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the results achieved therefrom?

Financial Assistance for promotion of computer education

406. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance provided to various States for development and promotion of Computer education during the Ninth Plan; and

(b) the amount of financial assistance proposed to be allocated for the same during the Tenth Plan, State-wise?

Remarks made at 42nd Foundation Day of NCERT

407. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the remarks made at the 42nd Foundation Day of the NCERT in the context of four NCERT text books dealing with Ancient, Medieval and Contemporary India that IHC experts revelled in identifying examples of alleged parochialism, prejudice and much more and these experts only ended up destroying their own standing in academic;

(b) if so, whether these observations, before being made public, were also brought to the notice of concerned experts of IHC; and

(c) if so, what were their reaction/ comments relating to these observations?

‡Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

National Commission for Children

408. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up National Commission for Children and National Charter for Children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

NGOs in the country

409. SHRI Sk. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details on the number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the country under his Ministry, State-wise; and

(b) the total financial assistance provided to them during the past three years, State-wise and year-wise?

Comprehensive Education Scheme for disabled children

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

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to frame a Comprehensive Education Scheme for the benefit of millions of disabled children in the country;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that only 1.8 per cent of children with disabilities go to the schools and there is no scheme to attract

these handicapped children to education; and

(d) if so, the time-frame within which the scheme would be finalised and put into practice?

Professional colleges running medical and engineering courses

411. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government professional Colleges running medical and engineering courses;

(b) the number of private registered colleges running professional courses;

(c) what procedure is maintained to regulate admission processes in the private medical or engineering colleges; and

(d) how many new colleges will be set up during the current financial year and how many of them have been set up upto now in this year (names of the colleges and the States required)?

Setting up of new IITs

412. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up 5 new IITs in the country;

(b) if so, the location of the IITs and the time frame within which these would be set up; and

(c) the details of special courses (not available in the existing IITs) that would be run in these new IITs?

Franchises courses by foreign universities

413. SHRI R.P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 640 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 2003 and state:

(a) the details of fresh guidelines laid down, especially those relating to activities of the existing franchises offering courses on behalf of the foreign universities;

(b) whether it is a fact that neither the AICTE nor the State universities are aware of the number of franchises operating in the various States; and

(c) if so, steps being taken to create a data base and also to monitor their activities?

Ban on capitation fee

414. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Supreme Court has banned the private professional colleges from charging capitation fee;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Supreme Court appointed two committees, each headed by a retired High Court Judge, to look into the fee structure and supervise the admission procedures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Education code for Kendriya Vidyalayas

415. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Article 81(e) has been insterted in education code for Kendriya

Vidyalayas in August, 2003;

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

(c) whether it has since been kept in abeyance; and if so, the reasons therefor?

National Policy of Education

416. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Policy of Education, 1986 recommended that at least 500 colleges should be made autonomous by the end of the Eighth Plan period;

(b) if so, whether the targeted number of colleges have been granted autonomy; and

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

Grant to Government of Assam towards salary of teachers

417. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant released to Government of Assam towards salary of teachers appointed under OBB scheme during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the utilization status of the above, year-wise;

(c) the outstanding balance, if any, due to Government of Assam under the scheme; and

(d) the status as to the continuity of service of OBB teachers under SSA?

Children with mental problems in schools and colleges

418. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of children with mental health problems in various schools and colleges in the country;

(b) what is the number of identified handicapped children in various schools;

(c) whether our human resource personnel in schools are well equipped to deal with these handicapped children; and

(d) whether Government have any plans to identify such handicapped children in our schools and provide them specialized atmosphere so that they can blossom out well and contribute to nation building?

Ragging incidents in colleges

419. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ragging incidents of new students in colleges in the Capital and other adjoining States are taking place every year despite the fact that ragging has been banned by Government;

(b) if so, what is the number of incidents reported during the current year in the Capital; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the management of such colleges and also against the students found guilty of ragging?

Scholarships and bank loans to students for Higher Education

420. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of arrangements made by Government to provide scholarships and bank loans for getting the higher education from the institutions affiliated with the Ministry during the current financial year;

(b) the number of students in the State of Assam provided with the scholarships and bank loans for higher education during the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003; and

(c) the number of SCs and STs students benefited in Assam?

Global gender parity index

421. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has studied the recently released Education for All global monitoring report on gender parity in education;

(b) whether in the global gender-parity index, Bangladesh and Pakistan have fared better with India relegated to low rankings alongwith countries like Mozambique, Chad and Burkina Faso; and

(c) whether the Dakar declaration has set the deadline for attaining gender parity in education for all countries by 2005 and whether the deadline has been extended by another decade?

Implementation of education-for-all programme

422. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government has written to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa that they were too slow in implementing largely education-for-all programme funded by Central Government;

(b) whether a new programme has been prepared for girls' elementary level education to be implemented in 21 States;

(c) the details of private participation in running secondary schools in rural areas;

(d) whether Central Government has set up a target for this year to enroll all children between the age of 6 and 14;

(e) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(f) to what extent State Government have been involved in implementing and completing this project?

Fake educational institutions in Delhi

†423. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some fake educational institutions are running in Delhi;

(b) if so, the total number thereof; and

(c) the action Government are going to take against these fake educational institutions?

National Open Schools

424. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Open School opened in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the details thereof State-wise/ School-wise; and

(c) the number of National Open Schools proposed to be opened in the different parts of the country during the years 2002-2003 and 2003-04 indicating the amount allocated for the same?

Establishment of Central or Open University

425. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish any new Central University or Open University in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

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

Right to elementary education as Fundamental Right

426. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the right to elementary education has been enshrined as one of the Fundamental Rights under the Indian Constitution;

(b) if so, whether Government have enacted any enabling legislation to make the right enforceable;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

(d) by when the necessary legislation is likely to be presented for Parliamentary approval?

Parliament for children by UNESCO

†427. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Parliament for children named "Education for All" has been organised in Delhi recently under the literacy drive being launched by the UNESCO;

(b) if so, the details of the main points discussed in the said Parliament;

(c) whether Government have realized NGOs and civil society organizations could play a significant role in child education;

(d) whether it is a fact that the programmes launched by NGOs in the field of literacy have been praised; and

(c) if so, the names of the organisations which have done commendable service in this field and details of the success achieved by them?

Improvement of Science Education in Schools

428. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central scheme called the Improvement of Science Education in Schools is under implementation to

improve quality of science education and promote scientific temper in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme; and

(c) what is the present status of the implementation of the scheme in the Southern States, State-wise?

Promotion of Bal Sahitya

429. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme or strategy has been evolved by Government to promote children literature (Bal Sahitya); and

(b) whether Government have introduced any award for promoting Bal Sahitya, if so, the details in this regard?

Non-payment of salary of Employees of Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Jangla

†430. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Adarsh Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Jangla, Himachal Pradesh have not been paid salary for the last 20 months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and by when they will be paid their salary;

(c) whether Government would consider to transfer the employees to other college for the smooth functioning of the college;

(d) whether Government propose to appoint a regular and competent principal in the college; and

(e) whether Government propose to dissolve the existing Managing Committee

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of the college and to constitute a new one under the direct control of the Ministry?

Action plan to protect the rights of children

431. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) has there been an action plan recently to protect the rights of children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how would it help to protect the children's rights?

Rank to private engineering and management colleges

432. SHRI R. P. GOENKA:
SHRI K. RAMA
MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to rank all licenced private engineering and management colleges;;
- (b) if so, the criteria for proposed gradation;
- (c) the number of such approved institutions in the country; and
- (d) machinery established, if any, to regularly monitor the performance of these institutions to decide on the continuance of their entitlement to a particular grade and also to suitably publicise their ranking?

Setting up of University in enegal

433. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Senegal Government has sought India's help to set up a University there; and;
- (b) if so, the action taken thereon?

Inclusion of magic in syllabus

†434. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously considering to include magic in syllabus;
- (b) if so, the justification for the same; and
- (c) whether such a step of Government will not give rise to superstition among people?

Environment as a subject in school and college curriculum

435.SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-
CHANDRAYYA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Supreme Court directed the introduction of "environment" as a subject in school and college curriculum some time in 1991;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain States have not introduced 'Environment' in curriculum despite November, 1991 Court judgement; and

(d) the action taken to ensure implementation of the Court's orders in every educational institution?

Allocation of funds to propagate reason and science

436. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry allocate funds to propagate "reason and science" and wage a war against superstition" and "magic";

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated for the purpose annually for the last three years; and

(c) the results so far achieved in this field during this period alongwith details thereof?

Indiresan Committee report

437. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that P.V. Indiresan Committee on the changing of the funding pattern for the IITs has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the major recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether the academicians are also representatives and suggesting for changing the funding pattern to the IITs in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether it is also a fact that Indiresan

Committee recommended that 70 per cent of the Plan funding should be utilised for infrastructure development?

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

438. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the introduction of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, in schools in different States, there has been marked increase in number of school going children;

(b) if so, the increase and percentage of increase in school enrolments registered in different States;

(c) whether in certain States cash incentives have been given to poor children for universalisation of primary education; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard, and the cost involved and the success achieved therein?

Vocational programme at the undergraduate Level

439. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient points of the UGC proposal to “recast the vocationalisation programme at the undergraduate level under a modified scheme of career orientation programme” under which colleges and universities will be allowed to run certificate/diploma/advanced diploma programmes parallel to conventional courses;

(b) whether any model courses have been structured to be the guiding factor for colleges/universities to frame their courses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Agro-based vocational training courses at higher secondary level

440. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to introduce agro-based vocational training courses at the higher secondary school level;

(b) whether students can acquire certificates of skill in different agro-vocations like crop husbandry, animal husbandry, horticulture and dairying, regardless of their formal high school education; and

(c) whether the Ministry has decided to phase out the existing 6700 vocational schools which have not met the desired standards?

Anganwari Kendras

†441. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'Anganwari Kendras' opened under ICDS in the country, State-wise and the number of cases pending with the Ministry for approval in regard to the demands made for opening 'Anganwari Kendras';

(b) the number of development blocks in Himachal Pradesh that have been included under ICDS, but no posts of programme officers have been created as yet; and

(c) the reasons for not creating the said posts so far?

Sanction for rack points

442. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would sanction full rack point in Reeva and Neemuch and half rack point at Niwari;

(b) if so, by when the same will be sanctioned; and

(c) specific date for sanctioning the above rack points?

Supply of sub-standard/underweight foodstuff to railway passengers

443. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any surprise checks are conducted on the supply of foodstuffs supplied to the passengers by private catering vendors on railway platforms;

(b) whether it is a fact that sub-standard/underweight foodstuff is supplied to the passengers;

(c) whether these activities of the vendors are overlooked/done in connivance with the Inspectors;

(d) whether Government have laid down mandatory provisions for the vendors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

System developed by IIT Kanpur for Railways

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

(a) whether it is a fact that recently an instrumentation system has been developed, with reported successful field trials, at the IIT, Kanpur, to detect in advance, changes that take place in the shape of railway wagons when

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

sudden brakes are applied to ward off accidents and minimise the number of derailments;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its present status; and

(c) time frame fixed, if any, for large scale use of the new system on the Indian Railways?

Neutral Control Wing of Indian Railways

445. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the functioning of Neutral Control Wing of Indian Railways; and

(b) whether the recommendations of Neutral Control Wing has relevance to Railway safety?

Import of components for locos

446. SHRI MURLI DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under transfer of technology, a target for manufacture assembly of 50 GM-type high horse-power locos was fixed during the period 1999-2002;

(b) if so, the number of locos that were manufactured during the above period and reasons for not achieving the target;

(c) whether components for manufacture of these locos were imported from abroad and if so, the reasons for not receiving them in time; and

(d) whether stores worth Rs. 95 crores remained blocked as a result

thereof and if so, who was responsible for the loss?

Rail tunnel through Pir Panjal

447. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways has been able to achieve an engineering breakthrough in the construction of rail tunnel through Pir Panjal to link Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country and bring Srinagar on the rail map of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the work on the project is likely to begin and be completed?

Development of East Coast Railway in Orissa

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

(a) whether it is fact that construction work of East Coast Railway in Orissa is moving at a snails pace;

(b) whether on account of lack of interest on the part of officials at the Centre, billions of rupees allocated to the Zone for construction of projects are lying unutilized and while no new projects are being implemented the old ones are yet to be completed; and

(c) if so, reasons therefor and action plan of Government to speed up developmental activity and fill up all the senior posts in the Zone to make it a get-going?

Double-stack container trains

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that railways plan to run double-stack container trains;
- (b) if so, the routes where these trains would be introduced;
- (c) whether this project would be undertaken with external help, if so, details thereof; and
- (d) what is the percentage of savings in haulage and waiting time under this project?

Use of old unused tracks

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

- (a) whether Railways engages in using unused tracks and narrow gauge tracks which can be brought to use either by using them for gauge conversion projects or if they are old and rested, they can be sent for polishing for reuse;
- (b) if so, the length of tracks that were used in such a manner;
- (c) if not, whether Government have plans to introduce the use of old unused tracks in this manner which will eventually save the Railways crores of rupees; and
- (d) if so, by when?

Tardy implementation of projects in Railways

451.SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHARJEE:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTA-CHARYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Railways

have been found by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation to have a ready record in the implementation of projects leading to huge cost and time overrun;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure the timely completion of the projects?

Allocation for rail projects in U.P.

452. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of rail project proposals received from the Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;
- (b) the steps taken on each proposal; and
- (c) the details of amount allocated and spent on these projects during this period?

Amount to be spent in Karnataka on improving safety etc.

453. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the amount proposed to be spent in Karnataka during 2003-2004 on improving safety, relaying tracks, developing railway platforms and introducing new signal system?

Electric train project in Bangalore

454. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have consulted the Karnataka Government on the pending Bangalore Electric train project;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;

- (c) what is the estimated cost of the above project; and
- (d) what is the present status of the proposed project?

Platform tickets from machine

455. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are going to set up a platform ticket machine "drop coin get the platform ticket" at Bilaspur Railway Zone;
- (b) if so, by when this machine is likely to be installed;
- (c) the number of people who would be benefited by this facility;
- (d) whether these machines would be provided to other Railway Stations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Parallel railway network

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

- (a) whether Government are making efforts to obtain huge amount from World Bank in order to construct a parallel railway network with that of roads;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the outcome of the action taken by Government in this regard?

Rail projects in A.P. with ADB loan

457. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the rail projects in Andhra Pradesh to be taken up with the Asian Development Bank loan;
- (b) by when the work of the projects would be taken up; and
- (c) the target for completion of the projects?

Contractor's men in pantry cars

458. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry treat the contractor's men in Railway 'pantry cars' as passengers on duty; and
- (b) if so, what is the number of such contractor's and its men in Indian Railways?

Recommendations of Passenger Amenities Committee

459. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the major recommendations of the last Passenger Amenities Committee;
- (b) whether Railways have accepted any of the proposals made by the Committee; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Light weight coaches

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

- (a) whether the Railways have entered into a contract with the foreign company for the manufacture of light weight coaches for Rajdhani, Shatabdi and some selected super-fast trains of the Indian Railways;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) by when the new coaches should be ready for being introduced in the above mentioned trains?

Laying of rail line from Punthamba to Shirdi

461. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of distance covered, in laying of rail line from Punthamba to Shirdi in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of budget sanctioned for this project and the amount of budget released so far, and details of amount spent so far; and

(c) whether under this project by laying rail line from Punthamba to Shirdi, instead of laying rail line from Copergaon to Shirdi, will the devotees could travel from Hyderabad to Shirdi by rail line, without break any where?

Efficiency after creation of new zones

462. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the improvements in the safety and efficiency of operation of railways after creation of the five new zones;

(b) whether there has been any improvements in the railway earnings after the new zones coming into effect in April 2003, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Gauge conversion of Rangia Murkonghelek

463. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 514 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th April, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Ministry has prioritized the gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkonghelek portion of NF Railways in the list of priority projects for Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Ministry will send the project to Planning Commission for clearance after due prioritization pending any positive reply from Defence Ministry on the subject?

Project to improve functioning in Railways

464. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have decided to take number of measures to improve the function of railways in view of the large number of accidents occurred during 2003;

(b) if so, whether Railways have cleared an ambitious Rs. 31,000 crore project to reduce possibility of train accidents and employ the latest technology to strengthen weak rail bridges;

(c) to what extent this plan is aiming at totally eliminating collisions which constitute seven per cent of total accidents but accounts for thirty eight per cent of total fatalities;

(d) the total amount to be spent on prevention of derailments; and

(e) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

Sky Bus Metro by KRCL

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

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the State-owned Konkan Railway Corporation Limited has unveiled the "Sky Bus Metro" mode of transportation and given their proposals to a number of cities and metros in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals offered and the interest shown by different States, with their present status; and

(c) results of studies undertaken, if any, to evaluate the safety of this technology and also the comparative economics of the "Sky Bus Metro" and the “elevated metro” modes of transportation?

Railway projects in Maharashtra

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

(a) the number and names of on going railway projects in Maharashtra and the number of projects sanctioned this year;

(b) the present position of these projects and the likely date of completion; and

(c) the number of projects held up due to paucity of funds and the steps taken to provide requisite funds?

Allocation for construction and conversion works in Himachal Pradesh

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

(a) whether it is a fact that former Chief Minister and members of Parliament of Himachal Pradesh have requested last year as well as this year to extend Kalka-Parvanu B.G., Chandigarh-Jagadhari-Paunta Sahib-Dehradun, Baijnath to Bhanupalli *via* Mandi-Bilaspur B.G., convert the metergauge lines into B.G. line of Pathankot Jogendra Nagar, Kangra valley and to allocate more funds as well as expedite construction work of Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Rampur, Ghanauli-Pinjore *via* Nalagarh-Baddi and Kumarhatti-Dehradun rail lines; and

(b) if so, whether the budget allocation has been enhanced and work has been expedited and if not, the reasons therefor?

Accidents due to cracks in wheels

468. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eleven recent accidents have been caused due to cracks in the wheels supplied by Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Railways against the Durgapur Steel Plant;

(c) whether enquiry has been ordered by the Railways to find out the causes for recent accidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Collision of Rohtak bound passenger train

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the collision of Tilak Bridge-Rohtak passenger train with a shunting engine at Shakur Basti yard on the 23rd August, 2003, was due to staff failure as per the enquiry conducted by the Northern Railway Commissioner of Railway Safety;

(b) if so, the nature of staff failures, the circumstances leading to such failures and why mechanical devices could not warn about the impending failure; and

(c) the action taken against the errant staff and to prevent such staff failures in future?

Berths in Udyan Express

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

(a) the number of IInd class three tier berths provided to Gulbarga in Udyan Express running between Bangalore-Mumbai;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is great demand for additional coaches to Gulbarga from Bangalore and at Gulbarga in Mumbai-Bangalore Udyan Express; and

(c) whether Government would provide more berths to Gulbarga in the Udyan Express?

Taking pictures at Railway Platform

471. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to allow to take pictures at a railway platform in the country as Civil Aviation Ministry is considering to liberalise to take photo/pictures at airports;

(b) if so, by when it will be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Contract to foreign companies for track maintenance

472. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether contracts have been given to any foreign company for maintaining railway tracks;

(b) if so, details of the sectors for which the contract has been given; and

(c) the reason for awarding the contract to foreign companies?

Connecting of cities and districts by train

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

(a) whether Government have plan to introduce more trains to connect its cities and districts in the near future; and

(b) if so, the number of trains that would be introduced and by when?

Accidents in Karnataka

474. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of railway accidents occurred in the country from January 2002 to the end of October, 2003;

(b) number of persons died, injured in these accidents;

(c) how many persons died and injured in the Bangalore-Mysore push-pull train that derailed in October, 2003;

(d) what are the causes for the above accidents;

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to avert railway accidents; and

(f) is there any proposal to introduce insurance cover to passengers?

Complaint against US measures in WTO

†475.SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3264, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the countries of the world like Japan, Brazil, South Korea, Switzerland etc. have lodged a complaint against the USA's decision to increase taxation to restrict the import of steel there;

(b) if so, whether India has also taken any such step; and

(c) if so, when and the details thereof?

Denial of access to US markets by steel exporters

476. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, apart from Anti-dumping actions, Washington has started employing ISO quality standards as yet another device to deny market access for iron and steel products from India;

(b) whether this move does not amount to a non-tariff barrier and thereby violating the principle of free-trade;

(c) if so, how Government are thinking of dealing with the situation;

(d) whether any negotiations have been made with the US Administration; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Export of steel

477. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether, of late, China has adopted a rigid posture with regard to export of steel and steel products from India to the Chinese market;

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

(c) whether a high-level delegation led by the Secretary, Ministry of Steel, visited China recently; and

(d) if so, whether the matter was discussed with the Chinese authorities to the satisfaction of both the countries?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

National Policy on Steel	Districts without sports/indoor stadia
478. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to unstarred Question 3858, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th April, 2003 and state: (a) whether the National Policy on steel has been finalised; (b) if not, whether a Committee was set up to formulate National Policy on steel; (c) whether the recommendations of the Committee has been obtained; if so, the details thereof; (d) how Government are going to ensure protection to domestic industry from unfair competition monitoring the capacity and investment, arrangement of finance, land acquisition etc.; and (e) what plans are there to reduce the cost of steel?	†480. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state: (a) the State-wise names of such districts of the country where the facility of sports stadium and indoor stadium has not been provided; (b) whether Government are extending help to State Governments in construction of stadia and indoor stadia in all such districts; and (c) if so, the details of assistance being given in this regard to Uttaranchal and by when stadia and indoor stadia would be constructed in all the districts of that State?
Increasing prices of steel	International cricket matches in J and K
†479.SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of steel has been on the increase for the last eighteen months in the country; (b) if so, the details of such increase after July, 2002 to October, 2003; (c) the reasons for such increase; (d) whether the same is due to increase in production cost of Steel; and (e) if so, to what extent the production cost of Steel has increased?	†481. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state: (a) whether Government are considering to host international cricket matches in Jammu and Kashmir; and (b) if so, the places in J. and K. where these matches would be organised alongwith full details thereof?
	Opening of Army Boys Sports Companies
	482. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the places where eight Army Boys Sports Companies are located at present and the number of boys undergoing training in each such company;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to open more such companies in the near future;
- (c) if so, whether places, where such companies are proposed to be located, have been identified; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard, indicating the time by when such companies would start functioning?

Accreditation to Dope testing laboratory by IOC

483. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sports Authority of

India has developed a state of the art dope testing laboratory in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it has been granted permanent accreditation by the International Olympic Committee?

Special area games for water sports in Hyderabad

484. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open a Special Area Games Centre for Water Sports in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what role the Andhra Pradesh Government would play in this regard?

NEW DELHI;

The 29th November, 2003

Agrahayana 8, 1925 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN

Secretary-General.

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