

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Thursday, the March 6, 2003/Phalgun 15, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

Reliability of CBI

† 1542. SHRI RAMA SHANKER
KAUSHIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER
be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent working of the CBI
is reliable and what has been the source
from which information is leaked before
any action is initiated by the CBI and what
are the reasons therefor; and

(b) the steps Government intend to
take in order to keep the reliability of the
CBI intact, besides streamlining its
functioning and keeping its confidential
aspect intact?

Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana

† 1543. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will
the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to the various
States under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar
Yojana from 1999-2000 onwards,
year-wise;

(b) Uttar Pradesh's share in this regard;
and

(c) by when the next instalment of the
funds is likely to be released?

Growth of Agro and Rural Industries

1544. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL
INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Agro and Rural
Industries, so far, production and
employment generation are concerned; and

(b) the strategy proposed to be adopted
during the Tenth Five Year Plan period for
growth of the agro and rural industries?

Khadi artisans in Andhra Pradesh

1545. DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND
RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Khadi artisans in
Andhra Pradesh as on date, district-wise;
and

(b) the details of the welfare measures
Government have extended to these
artisans?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Potential of ARIs in Rajasthan

1546. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed potential of the agro industries in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far this potential is being utilized; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to ensure development of the agro industries in the State and what are the marketing schemes Government intend to implement for the same?

Rural industrialisation in Rajasthan

†1547. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the status of National Programme for Rural Industrialisation in the industrially backward districts of Rajasthan; and

(b) the achievements thereof?

Setting up of nuclear power projects

1548. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up nuclear power projects in the country and build 1000 mw reactors in coastal sites and 700 mw reactors in identified inland locations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when, the preliminary

formalities are likely to be completed, sites identified and work started?

Atomic power generation

1549. SHRI SANTOSH
BAGRODIA:
SHRI GHULAM NABI
AZAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a very small portion of power is generated through the atomic power plants out of the total power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the costs of maintaining atomic plants is viable *vis-a-vis* the quantum of power generated by each atomic plant;

(d) whether Government plan to upgrade and increase power production in these plants in the near future; and

(e) if so, by when?

Setting up of atomic power plants

1550. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA:
SHRI T.S. BAJWA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposals to set up more plants to generate atomic energy for peaceful purposes;

(b) if so, what are the plans for such an expansion in the Tenth Plan;

(c) whether adequate finance has been identified for this purpose;

(d) the details of the new locations where such power plants would be set up;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) whether any State Governments have come forward to participate in such projects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Atomic power generation

1551. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is procuring nuclear reactors from Russia and other Western countries to boost atomic power generation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that USA is also extending its helping hand to co-operate with India in the field of civil nuclear energy; and

(d) if so, the details of the co-operation sought by India and accepted by the USA?

Grant of mining lease in Kerala

1552. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 894 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th November, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has recommended proposals for grant of mining lease for ilmenite rutile, leucoxeve, zircon, monazite in favour of M/s Cochin Minerals and Rtiles Ltd. as on the 1st April, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendation made by the State Government specifically the dates of such recommendation and the Central Government's response thereto?

E-Governance project

1553. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce an ambitious e-governance project across the country for all business/citizen-Government interfaces;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether the new project would ensure minimal documentation, non-discretionary and unambiguous decision making, time monitoring and accountability; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be put in place?

Mobile market

1554. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile market is in turmoil as Government and the regulator have not come out with a clear cut policy and rules; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

Mobile phone sets to postmen in the States

†1555. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

where postmen have been provided with mobile phone sets under the newly launched 'Gramin Sanchar Sevak Yojana', district-wise; and

(b) the extent to which the sets have been used and the success of the experiment so far?

Wider spectrum for cell phone operators

1556. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cell phone operators have sought for a wider spectrum; and

(b) if so, the names of these operators and Government's response thereto?

Telephone facilities in rural areas

1557. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Government's policy for providing telephone facilities in rural areas;

(b) the position regarding availability of telephone facility in rural areas; and

(c) what has been private sector's response in this regard?

Internet pornography

1558. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that internet pornography has all its bad impact on the Indian society particularly children and adolescents; and

(b) if so, what is the mechanism adopted to check and contain access to this malady?

Setting up of Software Technology Parks of India

1559. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been facilitating growth of information technology by establishing Software Technology Parks of India as primary infrastructure;

(b) the number of Software Technology Parks of India established in Jharkhand indicating the locations and salient features thereof; and

(c) the details of Soft Technology Parks of India established in other States and the plans, if any, for expansion thereof during the next financial year?

Society for Electronic Transaction and Security

1560. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Society for Electronic Transaction and Security has received a request for setting up of its base in the various States alongwith Internet Security Centre;

(b) if so, the details of the request received from the States especially from Maharashtra;

(c) Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether Government have set up a Committee headed by Dr. M. Vidyasagar to examine the matter related with Internet Security in the country;

(e) if so, what are its recommendations; and

(f) Government's reaction thereto?

Telephone arrears of BSNL

1561. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has drawn a strategy to recover its arrears amounting to over Rupees Four thousand crores across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the BSNL has adopted any measures to recover the dues from the subscribers in the past; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

ISD call racket

1562. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ISD call rackets thrive in capital" as reported in the 'Statesman' dated the 31st December, 2002;

(b) if so, whether MTNL and VSNL have been losing crores of rupees per month on such call rackets;

(c) if so, whether the MTNL and VSNL are not having any foolproof system to check such rackets;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the plans formulated to check such rackets?

Branch post offices in H.P.

†1563. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prescribed criteria are relaxed for opening of sub-post offices in far-flung, hilly and border State like Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and conditions where relaxation is provided;

(c) the number of sub-post offices to be opened and upgraded in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan period and whether the target has been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the target set for the Tenth Five Year Plan period alongwith the details of the action plan to achieve the same?

ISD/STD/Fax facilities in Assam

†1564. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISD/STD/Fax facilities have been provided in all the exchanges of Assam;

(b) if not, the number of exchanges which have not been provided with these facilities so far; and

(c) the number of exchanges where these facilities are proposed to be provided during the year 2003-04 in the State?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Performance of IT Industry

1565. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the turnover of various IT industries during the current financial year;
- (b) the percentage of growth/decline in the industry;
- (c) what steps are being taken to improve export of software technology during the coming year; and
- (d) the foreign exchange earned during the last five years through the IT industry?

Internet telephony

1566. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plan to introduce internet telephony *via* VSNL in the near future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there are any private Internet Service Providers who are offering internet telephony in the open market; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Impact of long sitting before computer on health

† 1567. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any apprehension that sitting before the computer screen for

hours together leads to the clotting of blood; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

Expansion of Telecom in rural areas

1568. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI C. RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH:

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

- (a) what progress has been made towards achieving the objective laid down in 1999 National Telecom Policy relating to striking a balance between expansion of telecom in rural areas and providing high-value services for a modern economy, achieving a teledensity of 7 (number of phones for every 100 people) by the year 2005, 15 by the year 2010 and a rural teledensity of 4 by the year 2010; and
- (b) what are the details thereof till the 31st December, 2002 and what is the perspective planning till the year 2010?

Decrease in mail traffic

1569. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been overall decrease in mail traffic during the year 2000-01 as compared to previous year;
- (b) if so, the extent of decrease in different categories and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether postal services including telegraphic services are getting beyond the reach of the common man because of steep

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

hike in tariffs in contrast to telecom facilities which are cheaper and affordable; and

(d) with the decrease in postal traffic, what has been the impact on the efficiency and productivity of the staff?

Revenue from telegraphic services

1570. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether alongwith postal (mail) services, the telegraphic services are also earning less revenue are not viable;

(b) whether FAX/e-mail facilities have made telegrams redundant; and

(c) what are the plans for diversification of the existing infrastructure and absorption of the staff in both Telecom/Telex-Teleprinter segments which have become obsolete?

Illegal routing of incoming international calls

1571. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the cases detected so far involving private firms/persons in illegal routing of incoming international calls resulting in loss to the service providers, including MTNL and BSNL;

(b) the estimated loss to MTNL and BSNL as a result thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the recalcitrants and the amount of loss recovered?

Expansion of rural telecom network

1572. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand rural telecom network during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the programmes drawn up in this regard;

(c) the target set therefor; and

(d) the circle-wise details thereof?

Access to computers

1573. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the majority of people do not have access to computers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that computers are too high priced to reach the middle classes;

(c) whether any effort is being made to ensure that the prices of computers are contained within the reach of a majority of the people; and

(d) the details of the steps Government have taken for availability of computers at lower prices?

Use of Linux operating system

1574. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received specific representations from the social activists demanding that greater emphasis be given to the use of 'Linux' operating systems in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Linux system would be cheaper;

(c) whether any task force has been set up to encourage cheaper operating system in the country;

(d) by when this task force would complete its work; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that the country get the cheapest software for its people?

Correctness of telephone bills

1575. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any system to check the correctness of the Telephone Bills dispatched through Website or published in Newspapers;

(b) whether Government propose to introduce the system of checking, the correctness of the telephone bills as is being followed in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, by when it would be introduced?

Affordable telephone connectivity

1576. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to provide affordable telecom connectivity to the people living in rural areas far away from the cities and towns;

(b) whether the recent Government's decision to permit basic telephone operators to enhance monthly rental,

reduce number of free calls and pulse rate would adversely affect extension of telecom connectivity to rural areas;

(c) whether the basic service providers had themselves asked for such increase in rates; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Foreign capital investment

†1577. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign capital investment is allowed in communication sector;

(b) if so, the foreign capital invested in this sector till the end of the year 2002;

(c) the details of the capital invested, separately, on communication services and communication industry (manufacturing) out of the said investment;

(d) the turnover of these sectors in the first nine months of the year 2002-03 and the assessment with regard to the profit earned by each sector?

Cellular handset manufacturing unit

1578. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite proliferation of cellular phone services in the country not a single domestic or multinational company has come forward with the proposal for setting up of cellular handset manufacturing unit in the country

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

and subscribers are still being provided with expensive imported handsets;

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

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

Community Information Centres

1579. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the progress made in setting up of Community Information Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the target fixed in this regard has been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to achieve the target?

Virus wrecked havoc on internet

1580. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the virus wrecked havoc on the Internet in India in the fag end of January, 2003;

(b) the efforts taken so far by his Ministry to avert such incidents in future; and

(c) the details of the cyber cafe crimes noticed by his Ministry during the last year and the action taken thereon?

Need of Indo-US partnership in cyber security

1581. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the 9/11 incident and the increasing dependence of nations and firms on the cyber world a closer Indo-US partnership in cyber security is needed;

(b) if so, whether any concrete steps in this regard have been worked out by both the countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any agreement has also been signed in this regard?

Marginal license fee for mobile players

1582. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sought opinion of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to allow an unlimited number of mobile players in a circle with a marginal fixed license fee;

(b) the TRAI's response thereto; and

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

Telephone facilities in rural areas

1583. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that private

operators or PSUs have failed to fulfil the commitment of providing telephone facilities in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the names of these companies and PSUs and assurances given by them to fulfil their commitment; and the status report as per their performances; and

(c) the details of the action taken/penalty imposed on other defaulters companies as on date?

Merger of Hindustan Cables Ltd. and BSNL

1584. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for merger of Hindustan Cables Ltd. with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount HCL has to pay to BSNL as on date?

ISD/STD/Internet/FAX/e-mail in H.P.

1585. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the STD/ISD/Internet/Fax/e-mail etc. facilities provided or proposed to be provided in various Gram Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh during the year 2002-03;

(b) the Gram Panchayats with and without the above facilities, separately, in the State and the reasons therefor; and

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

Programme for handicapped in Himachal Pradesh

1586. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special programme has been developed by Government for deaf, dumb, and visually disabled persons in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the centres where such programmes are being run for the disabled persons; and

(d) the additional centres proposed to be opened in the State during the next three years to give equal participation to disabled persons?

Cellular rates

†1587. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that owing to the rates, serious differences have been surfaced amongst various cellular companies affecting the subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that private companies are thrusting upon the subscribers their own rules and rates as well; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide cheap and better service?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Transit and storage loss

†1588. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the percentage of transit and storage loss of foodgrains during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that maximum loss in foodgrains transportation is caused because there is no proper arrangement with the Railways for booking the foodgrains after weighing it, as a result thereof the Railways do not issue railway R.R. to food department and the railways transports foodgrains not at its responsibility but at the responsibility of the Food Department whereas the said department is ready to construct weighing bridges at its own expenses; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

BIS norms for water

1589. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the news-item captioned 'BIS norms vague: Says CSE' as reported in the 'Hindu' dated the 5th February, 2003;

(b) if so, whether reputation of the BIS has fallen considerably due to its own norms being ineffective in dealing with the quality products; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to wind up the BIS in view of its failure to protect the consumers right?

Export contract of rice

1590. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's image as a grain exporter in the international market has been tarnished due to delay in execution of export contracts of rice;

(b) whether it is also a fact that non-execution of contracts by the exporters is due to FCI's inability to move grains to port and now demanding a price of Rs. 6160 as against old price of Rs. 5910 per tonne of rice on which pending contracts were signed; and

(c) if so, what urgent steps are being taken to restore India's image and preventing such lapses in future?

Safety standard for packaged water

1591. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after initially raising the safety standards for packaged drinking water to European Union specifications, the Bureau of Indian Standards backtracked on its move;

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

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

BIS specifications for bottled water

1592. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bureau of Indian Standards has observed that the packaged water being sold under its earlier specifications was safe and fit for consumption;

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

(c) whether it is proposed to leave the matter at this stage without any further investigation and action?

Sale of subsidised food commodities in open market in Sikkim

1593. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the CBI has investigated the case of sale of subsidized food commodities in open market provided to Sikkim by the FCI;

(b) whether it is a fact that six State Governments employees of the Food and Civil Supplies Department are also involved;

(c) if so, what action has been taken to prosecute them in the court of law by the CBI; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the involved officials of the FCI only are facing trial in a court in Sikkim and the involved State Government employees in the same racket are moving freely?

Food policy

1594. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government's Food Policy gets a reality check from States", appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated the 11th January, 2003; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to fix responsibility for non-implementation of food policy?

Starvation deaths

1595. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Public Hearing on Hunger reveals many are still dieing without food" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated the 11th January, 2003;

(b) the existing schemes to tackle such situations; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such incidents in future?

Storage cost of wheat

†1596. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the storage cost of wheat, per tonne in Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and Rajasthan, separately;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether uniform storage charges are paid to all the agencies by Government all over the country; and

(c) whether this cost is even less than the storage cost of FCI in the above States?

Public Distribution System offtake

1597. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Public Distribution System offtake is restricted to six major States;

(b) whether it is a fact that about two third of Government's food subsidy comprises the transportation, storage and distribution costs;

(c) if so, the steps taken, if any, to rectify the above; and

(d) the details of the Public Distribution System offtake by the States for the last three years, year-wise and State-wise?

Food Insecurity Atlas

1598. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Food Insecurity Atlas prepared by M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation;

(b) the status of food insecurity as per the Atlas in rural areas;

(c) the status of food insecurity in the urban areas; and

(d) the steps initiated to make India a food secure country?

Rice under welfare schemes

1599. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether rice from Central Pool is allocated to the States and Union Territories for distribution under welfare schemes;

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

(c) the allocations made during the last three years, year-wise, State/UT-wise and scheme-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that allocation is utilised for the welfare schemes only and not diverted to black market?

BPL families in Assam

1600. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the families living below poverty line have so far been identified in Assam for coverage under the Centrally-sponsored schemes like Antyodaya Anna Yojana etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been carried out to find out the purchasing capacity; and

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

Sugar scandal in Maharashtra

1601. MISS MABEL REBELLO: SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) whether there has been a sugar

scandal in Maharashtra as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated the 11th December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when this had been going on and whether the Central Excise Department has been asked to investigate the matter;

(d) if so, the loss incurred to the exchequer; and

(e) the details of the accused involved and the action taken to control such incidents?

Commissioning and use of equipment in BIS

1602. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Principal Director of Audit for Scientific Departments had observed in their report for the period 1993—98 that there had been delays in commissioning of many equipments and various equipments were underutilised in the Bureau of Indian Standards;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in commissioning and under-utilisation of various equipments; and

(c) the action taken against the officers responsible for delayed commissioning and under-utilisation of the equipments in BIS?

Import of edible oil

1603. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

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

(a) whether edible oil imports are likely to rise in the crop year to October, with winter oilseed production having fallen from a year earlier;

(b) if so, whether due to the poor production, Government are considering to import more edible oils this year;

(c) if so, what is the target set for import of edible oils; and

(d) what are the steps being taken to improve edible oil production?

Export of foodgrains

† 1604. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any target for exporting foodgrains to various countries during the period 2001-02 and 2002-03;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the success achieved in the field of export of foodgrains?

Foodgrain reserves

† 1605. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the production of foodgrains in the country during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02, year-wise;

(b) the foodgrain reserves with FCI as on date and the quantum of foodgrains on the verge of rotting; and

(c) the details of the foodgrains lifted by the States under PDS during the last three years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Procurement of foodgrains

1606. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the States from which the FCI has procured paddy and wheat during 2002-03;

(b) the quantum of paddy and wheat procured from those States, State-wise; and

(c) the norms prescribed for procurement of paddy and wheat from various States?

BPL families in Jammu

1607. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to identify the families living Below Poverty Line in Jammu region for coverage under the Centrally sponsored scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Amendment of Consumer Protection Act

1608. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are thinking of amending the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to make it more effective and consumer friendly;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments that Government are thinking of bringing before the Parliament for its approval; and

(c) how Government are thinking of empowering the consumers to deal with sellers not residing in the country but selling goods or providing services to consumers?

Funding by financial institutions for NER

1609. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that funding by the Financial Institutions for the development programme of the North Eastern Region has been abysmally low for some time past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the volume of fund flow to NE Region for the past three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the reasons for the low rate of investment in the NE Region have been identified and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard for mobilising funds flow, in the aforesaid region?

Repair of Dhodar Ali Road in Assam

1610. SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by NEC to rebuild and repair the Dhodar Ali Road in Assam;

(b) whether the rebuilding and repairing work would be completed in the current financial year; and

(c) whether the National Development Council has decided to convert the Dhodar Ali road into a National Highway?

**Assent of Parliament before
disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL**

1611. SHRI N. K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to disinvest Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the proposed modalities of disinvestment in selling shares;

(c) whether Government would offer the shares to ONGC and IOC, if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that above disinvestment proposal is controversial to Government's announcement in the Parliament; and

(e) whether any notification under section 620 of the Companies Act was issued at the time of nationalisation of companies and whether the assent of Parliament is required before disinvestment?

**Legal opinion for resale of Centaur
Hotel, Mumbai**

1612. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had sought for legal opinion regarding the resale of Centaur Hotel, Mumbai Airport from Attorney General and other Government authorised solicitors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have since received any legal opinion in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

Disinvestment of profit making PSUs

1613. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have disinvested several profit earning Undertakings; and

(b) the details of the disinvestment made, year-wise, in profit earning PSUs since 1998 togetherwith the details of their respective net asset value and accumulated surplus with each entity as in the years of disinvestments, percentage of holding disinvested and the value realized by Government against the same in respective cases?

Disinvestment of certain PSUs

1614. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are clearing the decks for disinvesting its stake in the National Building Consultation Corporation Ltd., Indian Medicine Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Cotton Corporation of India and Jute Corporation of India;

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

(c) whether the matter has finally been approved by the Union Cabinet?

**Distribution and marketing of
petroleum products**

1615. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether competent authority have decided to disinvest shares in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) without Parliament's approval;

(b) whether it is a fact that BPCL owe its existence by virtue of an act (1976 Act) of Parliament;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it was Parliament which initially determined policy of how the use of petroleum products, their distribution and marketing in India is to be carried out under section 7 of the 1976 Act and that the Central Government or a Government Company would be the owner; and

(d) whether authorities would seek approval of Parliament on the disinvestment of BPCL?

Post-closure adjustment

1616. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provision for the post-closure adjustments exists in the agreements relating to disinvestment in the unlisted public sector companies;

(b) if so, the disinvested companies where such provision exists; and

(c) the details of the adjustment made so far in the above cases including those where such claims are under consideration?

Sale of 'Navaratanas'

1617. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether corporate India is opposed to the strategic sale of profit making public sector 'Navaratanas' as has been suggested by the FICCI President that they be converted to autonomous corporation run by the professional management;

(b) whether it is a fact that the value of assets of these undertakings cannot be scientifically evaluated or estimated; and

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

Sale of Lakshmi Vilas Palace Hotel

1618. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRIMATI BIMBA
RAIKAR:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a local court in Udaipur has held the sale/transfer of Lakshmi Vilas Palace Hotel under ITDC disinvestment programme as null and void;

(b) whether the Court has held that the property belongs to the Rajasthan Government and the ITDC has no right to sell/transfer the same to a third party;

(c) whether ITDC's legal consultants had done the due diligence while calling for/processing the bids; and

(d) Government's reaction to the Court order?

Indo-Iran relations

1619. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Iran relations have further improved after the President Khatami's visit to the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take the House into confidence on whether or not Government were considering to offer the desired servicing of Iranian submarines in India?

Curbs on Pakistan Nationals' travel in India

1620. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has objected to the Ministry of Home Affairs' plan to curb Pakistan Nationals' travel in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the agreed formula finally arrived at?

Communication infrastructure in Myanmar

1621. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the action taken to develop the communication infrastructure in Myanmar who is to share its border with India for the prosperity of entire region connecting India's North East to South Asia in view of reluctance of Bangladesh to offer transit facilities?

Support to people of Indian origin in Fiji

1622. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people of the Indian origin in Fiji have sought Indian support for their struggle for economic, political and human rights there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Indo-US treaty on non-extradition

1623. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-US treaty on non-extradition to third countries signed between the USA and India ensures immunity to armed forces; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

UN weapons inspectors' report on Iraq

1624. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief UN Weapons Inspector, while presenting his report to the Security Council, observed that the inspections conducted in Iraq had found no weapons of mass destruction in her possession;

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

(c) the stand proposed to be taken by Government with regard to the US stand that war was the only measure to force Iraq to disarm; and

(d) whether India would like to play the role of a mediator for preventing war and ensuring peace and if not, the reasons therefor?

Summit of South and South East Asian countries

1625. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Myanmar has proposed a

summit of select South and South East Asian Countries for Inter-State co-operation;

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

Bilateral agreements with Singapore

1626. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the bilateral agreements made by the Singapore President during his recent visit to India especially in forging closer economic relations?

Nuclear weapons in Pakistan

† 1627. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is possibility of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of Pakistani terrorists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government are taking any steps to check the same; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Supply of Urdu journals to Indian Missions abroad

1628. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the Urdu journals and publications are being sent to Indian Missions abroad;
- (b) which are the countries where these Urdu publications are being sent; and
- (c) whether his Ministry has done any survey to find out which are the countries where Urdu publications are in demand?

Indo-Japan co-operation

1629. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Japan have agreed to broaden their areas of co-operation in economic and other fields;
- (b) if so, whether the Prime Minister has met his Japanese counterpart during his visit to the New York;
- (c) whether any delegation from Japan has visited India to implement the decisions taken during the talks by the two Prime Ministers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Indian view on Iraq war

1630. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) what has been India's endeavour to achieve a stand-off over the Iraqi war issue;
- (b) the other nations, who depend on Gulf crude supplies, who are in touch with India to avoid a conflict in the Gulf region threatening disruption in oil supplies; and
- (c) whether India has expressed its views in the United Nations over the issue, calling for moderation on the part of US?

US evaluation of infiltration

1631. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the US State Department spokesman on the eve of the Republic Day

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

this year, sharing India's concern, had observed that cross border infiltration by Pak-backed militants in Jammu and Kashmir had increased, after a little drop and added that it should stop completely; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to apprise the US and the world about the Pakistan's double speak, regarding militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, in the context of Pak-President's promise to stop cross border terrorism?

Indo-Nepal talks

1632. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Nepal high level talks were held to establish better relations between both the countries;

(b) if so, the specific areas in which Indo-Nepal talks were held; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

Indo-Russian discussions

1633. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the discussion held during his visit to Moscow in February, 2003;

(b) whether the discussions covered the Indo-Russian joint venture at Kodankulam nuclear power project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that Russia has sold military hardware to Pakistan; and

(e) if so, what are its consequences?

Anti-India activities in Bangladesh

1634. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have had reports in early January this year about Al Qaeda and ISI operatives engaged in anti-India terrorist activities, operating from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

"No First Use" of nuclear weapons policy

1635. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any other nuclear weapon status country has declared 'No First Use' as its policy as has been declared by India;

(b) if so, the names of such countries;

(c) if not, whether India would reconsider its "No First Use" policy in view of threats by a neighbouring country; and

(d) whether necessary precautions have been taken to meet nuclear attacks on India?

Impact of Tendu Leaves Policy on beedi workers

†1636. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the impact of Tendu Leave Policy framed by the Madhya Pradesh Government on beedi workers;

(b) whether the beedi workers of the State have been benefited from this policy;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the efforts made to protect these beedi workers from the exploitation have provided any relief; and

(d) the Central schemes for the beedi workers and whether they have been actually benefited from these schemes?

Beedi workers

† 1637. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, separately;

(b) the number of child and women beedi workers out of them; and

(c) whether Government have ever looked into the fact that benefits of the schemes meant for beedi workers reach to them, if not, the number of such cases detected, districts-wise?

EPFO investment in IDBI

1638. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees Provident Fund Organisation is seized of the impending merger of IDBI with the IDBI Bank;

(b) whether the EPFO has invested more than Rs. 3200 crores in IDBI bonds and if so, whether EPFO feels that the investment is safe even after the proposed repeal of the IDBI Act;

(c) whether the EPFO is aware that ONGC has recently withdrawn its placements amounting to Rs. 1500 crores with IDBI and reinvested it elsewhere; and

(d) if so, what precautions are being

taken to secure the EPFO deposits with IDBI?

Consumer price index

1639. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new series of consumer price index is in the offing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new index would be beneficial to the workers and employees; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Involvement of workers in assessment of plans

† 1640. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that workers are always neglected in assessment of plans and construction works;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no accountability fixed for the lives of the workers working in major projects; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government for the workers engaged in the projects?

Exploitation of child labour

1641. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to check economic exploitation of child labourers in the country;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated and being implemented by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Workers in organised/unorganised sectors

†1642. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government in respect of the number of workers working in the organised and unorganised sectors of the country, by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number thereof in the two sectors; and

(c) the estimated number of workers in the said sectors by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan?

ITIs in Rajasthan

1643. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial Training Institutes in Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government have received any proposals from the State Government of Rajasthan to open new Industrial Training Institutes in the State;

(c) the funds allocated for the same; and

(d) how many new Industrial Training Institutes have been set up during the past three years and the details of the funds utilized for the same?

Statutory dues in PSUs

1644. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA
CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of statutory dues outstanding in Public Sector Undertakings as on the 31st December, 2002;

(b) the number of persons affected due to retrenchment, closure, lay off during 1995 to 2002, year-wise and category-wise; and

(c) the number of persons who opted for VRS upto the 31st December, 2002?

Global recruitment

1645. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is poised to play a key role in global recruitment as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 18th December, 2002;

(b) if so, the work-force that is expected to be employed in foreign countries during the next five years, discipline-wise; and

(c) whether the exodus would hamper talent in the country, if so, the steps proposed to control this shift in talent?

World Commission on Social Dimension of Globalisation

1646. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been included in the 26 member World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalisation set up

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

by the International Labour Organisation which would identify policies linked to globalisation to reduce poverty, foster growth and development;

(b) what anticipated benefits the country perceives to achieve through this participation; and

(c) whether any blueprint has been prepared for this exercise so that our representatives truly reflect the collective thinking of Government in the body?

Age limit for domestic maid servants

† 1647. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under Government's consideration fixing the age of the domestic maids going abroad for jobs at 30 years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what effective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

Notification on child labour

1648. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have published the revised notification regarding hazardous occupations/processes in the context of child labour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the list of the existing hazardous occupations/processes in connection with the child labour;

(d) whether Government have taken any action against such hazardous industries which have taken help of children for running their businesses during the last two years; and

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

Growth of labour force

1649. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the growth of labour force in the organised and the un-organised sectors during the last four years, State-wise;

(b) whether this rate is more than the annual rate of growth during the same period and the other comparative details arising thereof; and

(c) the net employment generation during the period, year-wise and State-wise?

Beedi workers

† 1650. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of beedi workers in the country, State-wise and the steps being taken by Government to take care of their interests and health and also to provide fair wages to them;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to make beedi workers aware about tuberculosis and its treatment;

(c) whether Government are taking any action against those factory owners who do not made payments towards provident fund meant for beedi workers; and

(d) if so, the names of the people in Rajasthan against whom action was taken during the last three years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Unemployed persons

† 1651. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to provide them employment;

(c) the extent to which promise of providing employment to one crore of people every year has been fulfilled by Government, the number of youths provided with employment during the last three years; and

(d) the increase in number of unemployed persons, year-wise and State-wise?

Educated unemployed youth in H.P.

1652. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed educated, technically and otherwise, youth in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the annual growth rate of unemployment in the State for the last three years; and

(c) Government's policy to tide over the problem of unemployment in the State?

National Commission on Population

1653. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Population held a special discussions with NGOs and self help groups to strengthen its strategy to check population growth in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in some States the fertility rates are higher and various organisations have failed to check such rising trend; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the other strategy to be formulated to check population growth within a time-frame?

Meeting of NDC

1654. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the National Development Council was held in December last;

(b) if so, issues discussed and the targets fixed for growth;

(c) the proposed action plan to generate additional employment opportunities both in labour intensive and others; and

(d) the action plan to help the States facing alarming fiscal deficit?

Plan for good governance

1655. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a plan panel compendium on good governance as reported in the 'Financial Express' dated the 17th December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the priority areas in the plan and how far it would help the States to streamline their working; and

(d) how far it would help to control BPL and the poor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

National population control fund

† 1656. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an announcement had been made by the Prime Minister in July, 2000 to establish a National Population Control Fund with rupees 100 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said fund has not been established so far after a lapse of a period of two and a half year;

(c) whether internal conflict between the Population Commission and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the reason behind it; and

(d) if so, the reasons for non existence of coordination between both the Ministers?

Programme for BPL people

† 1657. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new programme for people living Below Poverty Line in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far by Government for providing education, health care facilities and food to poor people living Below Poverty Line in the country?

Financial crisis in Punjab

1658. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab is suffering from a severe financial crisis as an after effect of

the menace of militancy it has gone through from 1978 to 1992;

(b) whether it is being considered for any financial package on the lines of such packages to its neighbours like Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) whether the Chief Minister, Punjab has written to the Prime Minister in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

Indian economy

† 1659. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the Planning Commission Indian economy would be among one of the four major economies of the World by the year 2020;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that despite such economic development 13 per cent of Indian population in the country would be living Below Poverty Line at that time;

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

(e) whether it is a fact that the reasons for sustaining poverty in the country is that our plans are aiming at earning more and more money alone?

Planned Expenditure for certain States under Tenth Plan

† 1660. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the planned expenditure for

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

the Tenth Five Year Plan for Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, area-wise?

Economic sanction for Orissa

1661. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa is facing economic sanctions from the Centre on account of non-submission of Utility Certificates, as reported in the New Indian Express dated the 1st January, 2003;

(b) the details of various relief funds for which Utility Certificates are awaited;

(c) whether the delay in release of the funds is one of the factors for non-submission of Utility Certificates by the State in time; and

(d) if so, leniency proposed to be extended to the State in the matter?

Naxalite affected States

1662. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the action taken for special socio-economic plans for development of naxalite affected States to fight naxalite menace?

Relocation of outlets of fuel pumps

1663. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway Authority of India had raised objections to the existence of around 4000

outlets of fuel pumps which were to be either closed down or relocated as per its guidelines;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NHAI have relaxed its norms and now fate of 440 pumps remains to be decided; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the relaxation and whether the safety and smooth flow of traffic at highways has been kept in view?

Works under Central Road Fund

†1664. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether works for the State Highways and main district roads are sanctioned only under the Central Road Fund;

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry gives only administrative approval to the proposals;

(c) if so, whether Government, instead of reviewing the proposal, are considering to form a State-level Committee like other Centrally converted schemes like BADP, PMGY, EFC in which one representative each from the Centre and the State Government is included for issuing comprehensive guidelines for selection of the proposals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be considered?

Maintenance of National Highways in Rajasthan

†1665. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajasthan Government

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

had sought an amount of Rs. 28 crores for general maintenance of the National Highways during the year 2001-02;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the year 2002-2003 Government had made a provision of Rs. 13.27 crores for general maintenance of the Highways;

(c) if so, whether Government are contemplating to allocate the enhanced amount to the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Bridges on NH-52

1666. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes finalised towards construction of by-pass, widening, strengthening and replacement of wooden bridges on NH-52 during the Tenth Plan showing sectorial outlays including double lane conversion of the single lane tracks;

(b) the action plan finalised for similar programmes for improvement of National Highways during the Tenth Plan in Assam with proposed outlays, road-wise; and

(c) the utilisation status of the sanctioned funds during the Ninth Plan ?

National Highways in Uttar Pradesh

† 1667. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways passing through Uttar Pradesh and the latest position thereof;

(b) the number of those National Highways required to undergo urgent repairs;

(c) the amount sanctioned for these National Highways during 2001-02;

(d) whether Government propose to convert some of the State Highways into National Highways in the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Road accidents

† 1668. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the roads of the country are in the dilapidated condition where it is difficult to walk;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that road accidents are increasing rapidly due to dilapidated condition of roads; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by Government to repair the dilapidated roads of the country?

Road safety

1669. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that widening and improvement of roads is one of the measures taken by Government to improve road safety in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the works done in this regard during the last two years, year-wise and State-wise with particular details of Andhra Pradesh?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Road accidents

†1670. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has the largest number of casualties in the World in road accidents;
- (b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted by Government in this regard;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether any effective policy has been formulated by Government to check the road accidents in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Participation of private sector in highway project

1671. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

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

- (a) whether Government are aware of the report captioned "Larger private role in highway projects" which appeared in the 'Economy' dated the 27th December, 2002;
- (b) if so, the kind of participation of private sector in the construction projects;
- (c) the plan to increase annuity/BOT projects in Phase-II of the National Highway Development Project (NHDP);
- (d) the contributions of the private sector in Phase-I; and
- (e) the projects that would be executed in Orissa with private participation?

Compensation for acquiring land for roads

†1672. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is justified to provide compensation for the land acquired in the National interest for construction of National Highways, on the basis of local registry;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the land of the farmers is acquired with their consent;
- (c) if not, the justification for paying compensation as per the local registry; and
- (d) the norms laid down by Government for providing reasonable compensation to the farmers for their land acquired in national interest?

Conversion of roads into National Highways in Tenth Plan

1673. SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many important roads have been proposed to be transformed into the National Highways during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;
- (b) the name and length of each such roads;
- (c) what criteria have been adopted to propose such transformation; and
- (d) whether there is any proposal to transform any roads of Assam into NH in Tenth Five Year Plan?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Coastal Highways in Gujarat

1674. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

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

(a) the length of National Highways, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to declare a coastal highway of 765 kms. as a National Highway;

(c) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is much behind in getting its due share of National Highways; and

(d) whether Government propose to construct and declare National Highway keeping in view the strategic defence importance of the Kutch and Coastal areas of Gujarat ?

National Highways in J&K

1675. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been released to Jammu and Kashmir Government for maintenance of National Highways in the State;

(b) if so, the amount released; and

(c) the amount utilised so far ?

Super highway between Kashmir and Kanyakumari

1676. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a super highway connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked for the implementation of the scheme?

Road tax

1677. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seventeen per cent of the estimated five crore vehicles do still pay road tax annually;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken to bring such vehicles also within one-time road tax zone; and

(d) what are Government's plans to draw out a code for bus body design, pollution control and rationalization of road tax throughout the country?

Funds for road safety awareness programme

1678. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the NGOs of Rajasthan for allocation of funds for promoting road safety awareness programmes;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals received during the year 2001-02;'

(c) the NGOs selected for grant-in-aid;

(d) the amount of grant-in-aid allocated to each NGO;

(e) the NGOs whose proposals were rejected; and

(f) the reasons therefor ?

Road between Srinagar and Bandipur

1679. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the road between Srinagar and Bandipur is a highway which is also used by the Army;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the road is in a very bad shape and unusable at certain places; and
- (c) if so, whether his Ministry would undertake repairs of road and if so, by when?

Road projects in Rajasthan

1680. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of road projects of Rajasthan including the proposal of widening of Jaipur-Agra road to 4 lanned highways, which are pending with Government for approval/clearance;
- (b) the reasons for the delay in according approval; and
- (c) the measures contemplated to expedite the clearance?

Bridge linking Talaimannar and Dhanushkodi

1681. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are examining the proposal to construct a bridge linking Talaimannar and Dhanushkodi prepared by the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when a decision is expected?

Collapse of bridge at NH-6 in West Bengal

1682. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a 250 Ft. span of railway over bridge under construction by NHAI on NH-6 at Pakuria in Howrah District of West Bengal had collapsed on the 29th June, 2001;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the casualties, extent of damage and the financial loss; and
- (c) the reasons therefor and the agencies responsible for the same?

Allocation from Central Road Fund

1683. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount allotted to the States out of Central Road Fund during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the work undertaken by the State Governments from this fund, State-wise; and
- (c) what are the provisions from the Central Road Fund during the Tenth Five Year Plan ?

Sambalpur-Rourkela and Bhubaneshwar-Sambalpur road

1684. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have considered the need to four-lane Sambalpur-Rourkela and Bhubaneshwar-Sambalpur road;

- (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) if so, the time frame fixed for this purpose?

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways

1685. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have rejected certain proposals of the State Governments for declaring State Highways into National Highways;
 (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Bridge on River Beas

1686. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the bridge on the River Beas at Jalandhar-Pathankot Highway is in a dilapidated condition and there is every likelihood of the bridge collapsing any time; and
 (b) the agencies, responsible for upkeep and maintenance of this bridge and the action proposed to be taken to improve the condition of the bridge?

Kollan by pass-phase-II

1687. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received a proposal from the State Government of Kerala seeking approval for the Kollan by-pass phase-II from Kilikollor to Kovandu;

- (b) whether Government have accorded sanction for the project;
 (c) if so, the details thereof;
 d) if not, by when the sanction is likely to be accorded;
 (e) whether Government propose to construct the Bridges at 'Aravila' and 'Kandhanchira' in the above By-pass on BoT basis; and
 (f) if so, the details thereof?

Conversion of highways into four and six lanes in Rajasthan

†1688. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the parts of the highways in Rajasthan which are proposed to be converted into four and six lanes;
 (b) by when Government propose to convert Jaipur-Kota, Jaipur-Ajmer and Tonk-Sawai Madhopur Ranthambhore road into four lane road;
 (c) if not, whether Government would reconsider the same; and
 (d) whether any funds are lying unutilised for want of schemes?

Road projects during Tenth Plan

1689. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3038 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December, 2002 and state the details of projects that the Ministry is going to undertake in the Tenth Five Year Plan in Andhra Pradesh?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Growth rate of SSIs in Nineties

† 1690. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made any assessment with regard to the annual growth rate SSIs achieved during the decade of nineties;

(b) if so, the annual growth rates achieved during the decade; and

(c) the number of persons employed in this sector at the out set and at the end of the decade?

Share of SSIs in Industrial development

† 1691. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN
SINGH 'LALAN':

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

(a) whether Government have assessed the share of the small scale industries in Industrial development;

(b) if so, the share in percentage value of total industrial production in the country during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and first nine months of 2002-03; and

(c) the capital invested in small scale sector during the above period?

Problem of SSIs

† 1692. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has

been drawn to the facts highlighted by the National Sample Survey Organisation in its 56th report regarding the unorganised units in the small scale sector;

(b) if so, whether the problems being faced by the units in the above sector have been highlighted comprehensively in the report alongwith its impact; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and their impact on those units?

Special international force for protection of space assets

1693. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a call for creation of a special international force for protection of the space assets of various countries;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step to achieve this goal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Space Technology Development and Application

1694. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Space Research Organisation has called for a great collaboration effort for space technology development and application;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been entered into with any of the country in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

MPLADS fund for Gujarat

1695. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount that was collected from MPLADS of Rajya Sabha MPs for earthquake affected Gujarat;

(b) the details of the rehabilitation projects approved by the MPLADS Committee in Earthquake affected areas in the State and their status as on the 31st December, 2002;

(c) the agencies implementing the above projects; and

(d) the amount at the disposal of the implementing agencies and the balance with them as on the 31st December, 2002?

Completion of projects

†1696. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that from April, 1999 till the end of March, 2002 work of a number of ongoing projects have been completed;

(b) if so, the number of such projects which have been completed;

(c) the Ministries to which these projects belonged to; and

(d) the number of ongoing projects in April, 2002, Ministry-wise?

NEW DELHI;
The 27th February, 2003
Phalguna 8, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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