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 7, 2002/Phalguna 16, 1923 (Saka)

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

Total number of questions—155

Disbursal of loans by KVIC

- 754. SHRI C.P. THIRUNA-VUKKARASU: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is granting loan to provide employment to persons from weaker section through Khadi Boards; and
- (b) if so, the amount distributed and persons benefited during the last two years, State-wise?

Production of hand made paper

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

- (a) whether KVIC has any action plan to promote production of hand made paper in Andhra Pradesh which is very popular abroad;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what incentives are being extended to the producers of hand made paper in the State?

Subsidies to Khadi producers

- 756. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) the production capacity and demand of Khadi;
- (b) what steps have been taken by Government to promote its export; and
- (c) whether there is any plan to provide subsidies to the Khadi producers?

Loans to unemployed youths to promote Khadi

- †757. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are formulating any scheme to provide loans to unemployed persons to promote "Khadi":
- (b) if so, the comprehensive details thereof and by when the same is likely to be implemented; and
- (c) if not, in what manner Government propose to promote "Khadi"?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi

Recruitments in KVIC

- 758. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Chairman of KVIC has recently appointed about 40 'Khadi Experts' ignoring all prescribed Government norms;
- (b) if not, what criteria/norms were fixed in each case:
- (c) whether the Chairman has got unfettered powers to make such recruitment;
- (d) if not, the rules/instructions under which, he is empowered to make such appointments; and
- (e) the names of SC, ST and OBC candidates, selected against the reserved posts?

Allocation of fund under PMRY in Uttar Pradesh

- 759. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the funds allocated and released by Government during the last three years under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the details of the funds spent under the scheme during this plan; and
- (c) what steps are being taken by Government to allocate funds to Uttar Pradesh during the year 2001-2002?

Amendment in Atomic Energy Act, 1962

760. SHRI C.P. THIRUNA-VUKKARASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to bring amendment in the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 to provide private participation in country's nuclear power programme;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any expert committee has been set up by Government to examine 'Ticklish' issues involved in the matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the recommendations of the committee; and
 - (e) Government's reaction thereto?

No fly zones over the nuclear installation locations

- 761. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are considering to declare no fly zones over the nuclear installation locations;
- (b) if so, whether Government are considering to take action in complete coordination with the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and
 - (c) if so, the details thereof?

Radiation facility for foodstuff

- 762. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) the quantity of foodgrains and other food commodities subject to radiation in the country;
- (b) how much foodstuffs are saved annually by radiation technology indicating the figures for vegetables, fruits, fish and other grains; and
- (c) the value of such food commodities saved by way of radiation?

Closure of Tarapur Atomic Centre

- 763. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware of the news report which appeared in vernacular daily "Loksatta" dated the 21st January, 2002 regarding closing of Tarapur Atomic Centre by May, 2002;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Village telephones by telecom companies

- 764. SHRI C.P. THIRUNA-VUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that telecom companies failed to fulfil their existing targets of providing village telephones, as per the National Telecom Policy;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reason for not fulfilling the targets; and
- (d) the action proposed by Government against these companies?

Telephone facilities in the villages of Punjab

- †765. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether all the districts of Punjab have been provided with the telephone facilities;
- (b) if not, the number of villages without telephone facilities in the State, district-wise;

- (c) whether any time-frame has been fixed by Government for providing telephone facilities in each and every village of the State: and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Non-rectification of telephones in Mainpuri

- †766. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that due to carelessness of the higher officers, telephones in urban and rural areas of district Mainpuri (U.P.) remain out of order for quite a long time resulting difficulties to the subscribers and damaging reputation of the department;
- (b) whether Government would take any concrete steps to get repaired the faulty telephones;
- (c) whether Government propose to take action against the erring officers after fixing responsibility; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Loss to IT industry

†767. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Information Technology industry suffered heavy economic loss during the first nine months of the current year due to devaluation of Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* US dollar; and
- (b) if so, the amount of such loss and the value of import by the industry during the said period?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Trump pre-paid mobile service

- 768. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFOR-MATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to
- (a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited has launched a Trump prepaid mobile service from 15th January, 2002 in Delhi and Mumbai;
- (b) if so, whether lower tariff set by MTNL has been welcomed by public in both the cities:
- (c) whether this has forced the private companies to lower the charges; and
- (d) if so, to what extent MTNL has achieved success in this regard?

Outdated mobile technology

- 769. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that V 5.2 is an outdated mobile technology and is expensive to set up;
- (b) whether there are other alternative modern technologies available to limit mobility in India, and if so, the reasons for insisting on V 5.2 technology; and
- (c) the collection through revenue sharing and the amount kept in universal service obligation fund for funding of VPT and by when the allocation is likely to commence so as to benefit the basic telephone services provided to the masses?

IT sales

770. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: 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 "Red tape slows down public sector Information Technology sales" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th February, 2002;
- (b) whether Information Technology sales have also suffered more at the hands of "Cumbersome purchase procedures than lack of demand" as alleged by the President of IDC India apart from plagued tendering system where cost-consideration override technical ones; and
- (c) if so, what was IT spending/sales in 2000-01 and in what manner Government propose to increase take-off in this sector in 2002-03 for IT boom in the days ahead?

Depth of underground telephone cables

- 771. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the standard depth prescribed for laying the underground telephone cables;
- (b) whether underground cables connecting Gajrajbigha under Nalanda exchange have been laid at the prescribed depth;
- (c) if so, the reasons for damage to the cable resulting frequent disruptions of telephone connections; and
- (d) if answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what action Government propose to take against the contractor and the officials responsible therefor?

Time-limit for transfer of telephone

- 772. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether MTNL, Delhi has any timelimit for transferring telephone from one exchange to another;
- (b) if so, whether this time-limit was adhered to in the case of requests for transfer of telephones received at Chanakyapuri office of MTNL on 31st December, 2001;
- (c) if not, the reasons for non-adherence of the limit:
- (d) whether any responsibility has been fixed for delay in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the action taken against those responsible for the delay?

Long distance telephone facilities by private companies

- 773. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of private companies engaged in providing long distance telephone facilities in the country;
- (b) the number of connections provided by each of these companies both in urban and rural areas till 31st December 2001, separately;
- (c) whether any of these companies has been found violating the tender agreement of providing 10 per cent of the connections to the rural areas: and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action Government have taken in this regard?

Damage to post offices due to earthquakes in Kutch

- 774. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a large number of post offices/sub-post offices were destroyed/damaged due to earthquakes in the district of Kutch;
 - (b) if so, the number thereof;
- (c) the number of the post offices/subpost offices out of the above which have been got repaired/reconstructed and started normal functioning; and
- (d) by when the remaining post offices/ sub-post offices are likely to be repaired/ reconstructed?

Reduction in STD rates

- 775. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have reduced the rates of STD by around 60 per cent on 14th January, 2002 and whether this has improved the tariff and revenue in the telecom sector in any manner;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government are monitoring the fastest growing telecom markets in the world to be in the league with them; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

New post offices in Arunachal Pradesh

- 776. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) the locations in Arunachal Pradesh where new post offices are proposed to be opened during the year 2001-2002; and

(b) if so, by when all the villages are likely to be provided with post offices in the State?

Cellular subscribers

777. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the number of cellular subscribers as on the 31st December, 2001 and its growth rate during the last three years?

Damage to underground cable connecting Gajrajbigha

- 778. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the underground cable connecting Gajrajbigha under Nalanda Exchange has been damaged at many places;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the cable is so badly damaged that not only telephone connections remain out of order but also the line has noise and disturbance also; and
- (c) if so, what action Government propose to take to solve the above problems?

W.L.L. facility

- †779. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of districts in Uttar Pradesh which would be provided with W.L.L. facility during the current year;
- (b) whether this facility would also be provided in Mainpuri district;

- (c) if so, the time frame fixed for providing this facility to each of the districts including Mainpuri;
- (d) whether Government are aware that telephone consumers in the village of Kargil Martyr of Mainpuri district are facing difficulties due to theft of telephone cables, whether these villages would be provided with W.L.L. phone facility on priority basis;
 - (e) if so, by when; and
 - (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Linking of speed post stations to national level centres

- 780. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) by when Government are going to link all 800 speed post stations to 120 national level centres for providing enhanced postal services;
- (b) the details of the measures Government have devised to check default in the 'speed post services' due to fault of the postal officials deliberately or otherwise; and
- (c) whether there is any scheme in pipeline to provide similar service for rural areas?

Backwardness in communications and IT

- †781. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the country is consistently lagging behind in the field of communications and information technology despite plenty of claims made by Government;

- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Government are now going to hand over this sector to foreign companies and industrialists so that they can earn profits;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of indegenous/foreign companies which have participated in this sector, so far?

Telephone complaints in Jorbagh Exchange

- 782. DR. SWAMI SAKSHI JI MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) the telephone complaints registered/ received in respect of various faults in Jorbagh Exchange area in Delhi in January, 2002:
- (b) the time taken in attending and rectification of faults in each case;
 - (c) whether there was delay in any case;
 - (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken to prevent recurrence thereof?

Shifting of telephones

- 783. DR. SWAMI SAKSHI JI MAHARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the applications for shifting of telephones from various exchanges to Jorbagh Exchange in Delhi received during January, 2002 indicating the date of receipt of each case in Jorbagh Exchange and the date of installation in each case;

- (b) the reasons for delay, if any, in installation;
- (c) the cases which were favoured and those superseded and discriminated against;and
- (d) the action taken against those responsible for the delay?

Post offices with speed post facility in Tamil Nadu

- 784. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) what is the number of post offices with speed post facility presently operating in Tamil Nadu, district-wise;
- (b) whether Government propose to set up more speed post centres to cope up with the increasing demand;
- (c) if so, by when and where these are likely to be set up; and
- (d) whether any funds have been allocated for this project and if so, the details thereof?

Threat to software sector

- 785. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether NASSCOM has commented on the China's emergence as a threat to Indian Software Sector in the World Market;
- (b) whether China had in the past, sought access to the working of Indian IT industry through delegations from China's IT industry and whether India had played host to many such delegations;

- (c) whether it is a fact that China does not reciprocate our gesture by providing us access to study their IT sector; and
- (d) whether NASSCOM has cautioned its members to curtail its interaction with their Chinese counterparts?

Regulation of Courier Service Trade

- 786. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to regulate functioning of Courier Service Trade through licensing system;
- (b) whether the Postal Board would be empowered to issue the licenses for courier operations against a licence fee;
- (c) whether necessary amendments to this effect are being made in the Indian Post Office Act, 1898; and
- (d) whether the Speed Post Services operated by the Department of Posts would also be covered under this regulation and whether a courier fee tariff structure is also being imposed on the trade?

Implementation of agreement with extra departmental postal employees

- †787. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the agreement entered into with the employees on the basis of recommendations of Talwar Committee has been implemented *in toto* which came into existence as a result of the strike of the extradepartmental postal employees;
 - (b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the same is going to be implemented in totality?

Telephone facility in H.P.

- †788. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of telephone exchanges targeted to be established during the current financial year for extending telephone facility in hilly and inaccessible regions of the country specially in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) the places where telephone exchanges could not be established due to untimely arrival of M.C.P.C. and other equipments; and
- (c) the steps taken to meet the targets?

Non-functioning of Telegraph Machine in Motihari, Bihar

- †789. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to date.
- (a) whether it is a fact that the telegraph machine installed in the district of Motihari in Bihar is out of order for the last so many days and as a result thereof telegrams received there are issued from Patna Office;
- (b) whether in this process telegrams are received in Delhi and other places in about 7-8 days and it takes about ten days to reach the telegrams to Motihari from other places; and
- (c) the remedial measures being taken by Government in this regard and by when a telegraph machine is expected to be installed in Sugauli post office?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Conversion of telephone calls upto 500 km. into local calls

†790. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to convert telephone calls upto 500 km. into local calls; and
 - (b) if so, the details thereof?

Upgradation of branch post offices in H.P.

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to upgrade branch post offices in Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, what are the district-wise and constituency-wise and category-wise details; and
- (c) the number of branch post offices working at present in the State, districtwise and constituency-wise?

Duty on cellular phones

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has proposed duty on cellular phones;
- (b) if so, what is the mechanism evolved to enforce it; and
- (c) by when it would be brought into force?

Village Public Telephones

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

- (a) the number of village public telephones commissioned by private basic telecom service operators during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and first 9 months of 2001-2002 togetherwith the target for the corresponding period, circlewise, company-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the corresponding number of BSNL and erstwhile DoT, circle-wise and yearwise; and
- (c) the action contemplated by Government on companies who default on rollout conditions on VPTs?

Schemes/programmes for I.T. in Assam

- 794. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the schemes/ programmes formulated by Government to provide benefits of information technology to the residents of rural, hilly, tribal/remote and backward areas of Assam; and
- (b) if so, the amount allocated and released and disbursed for implementation of the above scheme?

Quantum of export of computer hardware

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

(a) the quantum of export of computer hardware during the years 2000 and 2001;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) the share of each State; and
- (c) the foreign exchange earned during the period?

Laying of telephone cables in Mainpuri, UP

†796. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: SHRI R.N. ARYA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to laying of telephone cables only six inches deep in Mainpuri, there have been incidents of theft of telephone cables in the urban and rural areas during the last two years resulting hardship to the consumers;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government have any scheme to connect these rural areas through the Wireless in Local Loop during the current year, in view of difficulties being faced by the consumers;
- (d) if so, by when such scheme would be launched in this district; and
- (e) the villages, which would be connected with this facility?

Increase in GDP due to earnings by IT

†797. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been increase in gross domestic product of the country as a result of the earnings made through information technology during the last few years;

- (b) if so, the percentage of the share of this industry in gross domestic product during the last three years, year-wise; and
- (c) the number of people engaged in this industry three years ago and their likely number by the end of this?

Foreign Parcel Post Offices in Gujarat

- 798. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFOR-MATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of Foreign Parcel Post Offices in Gujarat;
- (b) the number of parcels received in these post offices during the last two years;
- (c) whether Government are aware of the hardships faced by the people of the State to collect foreign parcels by travelling a long distance;
- (d) if so, whether Government have any plan to open more Foreign Parcel Post Offices in the State: and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, locationwise and if not, the reasons therefor?

Stoppage of storage at Jiribam (Manipur)

- 799. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the tenders of the carriage contractor for rice to the Jiribam storage has been cancelled for 2000-2001 after a long pendency;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (c) whether Government have stopped to stock rice at Jiribam, fromwhere distribution to nearby district of Manipur is made: and
 - (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Acceptance of parboiled rice by FCI in A.P.

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

- (a) whether Government have directed the Food Corporation of India to accept 7.5 lakh tonne parboiled rice in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (b) if so, the progress made in this regard during the Kharif season 2001-2002?

New Foodgrains Policy

- 801. 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 Government have decided to announce shortly a New Foodgrains Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and by when the new policy would be put in place;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that it is proposed to dismantle the present grain procurement system;
- (d) if so, whether the viewpoints of the various State Governments have been sought in the matter; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to safeguard interests of the farmers?

Amendment in Essential Commodities Act

- 802. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether there is a proposal to amend the Essential Commodities Act to provide for free inter-State movement of foodgrains and farm produce and to remove certain other curbs on storage and stocking of such commodities:
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal and the present status of its consideration; and
- (c) the details of the suggestions received from the States which are being incorporated and those which are likely to be left out in the proposed amendments alongwith reasons therefor?

Storage cost of wheat

- 803. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) the cost of storage of wheat per ton in Punjab and Haryana and the cities of Mumbai and Kolkata, separately;
- (b) whether the storage charges are paid uniformly by Government to all the agencies all over the country; and
- (c) whether this cost is less that the cost of storage borne by FCI itself in Punjab, Haryana, Mumbai and Kolkata?

Allocation of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh

804. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the allocation of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh from the Central pool during 2001-2002, quarter-wise;
- (b) whether State Government has made any demand to enhance allocation of foodgrains to the State; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken in response thereto?

Distribution of sugar fortified with Vitamin-A

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

- (a) whether it is proposed to distribute subsidised sugar fortified with Vitamin-A to families living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) through the Public Distribution System (PDS);
- (b) if so, the details of the proposal, including the price fixed and the quantity to be supplied to the BPL households;
- (c) whether nutritional efficiency of the fortified sugar has been tested; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Identification of BPL families

806. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court of India has set a deadline to

identify the BPL families throughout the country; and

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

Production of sugar containing vitamin 'A'

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have permitted production of sugar containing Vitamin 'A' in the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that Government are contemplating to permit production of this sugar at large scale;
- (c) whether Government would permit the sugar mills to raise prices of the sugar on the pretext of this sugar containing Vitamin 'A'; and
 - (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Food Stocks

808. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to revamp PDS in order to reduce its rising food stocks as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 16th February, 2002;
- (b) if so, what is the food stocks presently available with Government indicating the amount, Centre have incurred till date in procurring/storing/on subsidies and what budgetary allocations is likely to be made for the next year in this account;
- (c) the rise in allocation of foodgrains to "BPL" and "APL" likely to be made and the rate per kg. under PDS; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) how much wheat/rice is likely to be exported/made available to the States?

Sugar allocation from Maharashtra sugar mills

- 809. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) the quantity of sugar allocated to the other States from sugar mills in Maharashtra alongwith actual upliftment;
- (b) whether Government propose to procure sugar quota not lifted by the State Governments; and
- (c) whether Government plan to provide godown space to the sugar mills in view of the ensuing crushing season?

Discontinuation of procurement of foodgrains

- 810. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have decided to discontinue the present system of procurement of foodgrains;
- (b) whether Government have assessed its impact on the States like Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) if so, the remedial steps to protect interests of the farmers in these States?

Procurement facility at MSP

- 811. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the FCI extended 100% procurement facilities at MSP to Punjab and Haryana;

- (b) if so, the criteria adopted in procurement of foodgrains by FCI; and
- (c) the reasons for not extending this facility to the other States as well?

Income support scheme for foodgrains

812. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether Government are keen to get rid itself of the business of food procurement as the present policy benefits only four States:
- (b) whether it has suggested to the high powered Committee formulating a long term foodgrains policy, that the present system be replaced with an income support scheme which would benefit nearly 2 crore farmers as against 60 lakhs under the present scheme; and
- (c) if so, what are the details of the new schemes?

Storage and movement of essential commodities

813. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

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

- (a) whether Government have decided to lift control on storage and movement of essential commodities like wheat, paddy etc.; and
- (b) if so, the details of the new policy in this regard and what would be its impact on availability and retail prices of these commodities throughout the country?

Restoration of rationing system in Kerala

- 814. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government consider to restore the Universal Rationing System in Kerala:
- (b) whether any requisition has been received from the State Government to supply wheat for distribution to the families Below the Poverty Line; and
- (c) whether Government consider to allot wheat to the State for the above purpose on request?

Complete decontrol of sugar

815. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA":

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

- (a) whether it has been decided to resort to complete decontrol of sugar Industry;
 - (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any time frame has been fixed for this purpose;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps already taken, if any, in this direction; and
- (f) details of the new policy in this regard?

Allocation of foodgrains under Antyodaya Anna Yojana

- 816. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of foodgrains allocated to various States under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana and other Central Schemes for BPL, SC/ST, Schools, Old age homes etc.;
- (b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested to increase its quota under the above said schemes; and
- (c) if so, the details of the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

Foodgrains to States under Centrally sponsored scheme

- 817. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) the quantity of foodgrains supplied to each State under the centrally sponsored scheme of providing nutritional support to primary schools every month, State-wise details (2001-2002);
- (b) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Government to increase the quota of 3 kgs. per month; and
- (c) if so, whether Government have agreed to the proposal?

Failure of PDS

- 818. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the PDS has failed in the country;

- (b) if so, the reasons for such failure and the steps taken or proposed to take to improve PDS in the country;
- (c) whether Government are thinking of alternative income generating schemes for the poor in place of PDS; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

List of criminals furnished by Pakistan

- 819. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Pakistan has provided any list of alleged Pakistani criminals who were illegally staying in India; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and action Government have taken in this regard?

Agenda of POK in Indo-Pak talk

- 820. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement appearing in the "Telegraph" on 4th February, 2002 that when the talks begin with Pakistan on Kashmir, the issue of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir would top the agenda;
- (b) if so, whether the Prime Minister's reported Statement signals a new emphasis in the strategy;
- (c) whether this aspect of Kashmir dispute has been formally communicated to the authorities in Pakistan; and
 - (d) if so, their reaction thereto?

Missing entries of passports issued at Houston

821. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether entries of Indian Passports issued by India's Consulate General at Houston from 1995 to 1998 are missing;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not bringing it to Government's notice immediately after the lapse; and
- (c) the action taken against the erring officials?

Issuance of passports and visas to undesirable elements

- 822. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether issuing of passports and visas to the undesirable elements and antinational elements by the Indian Embassies and Consulates abroad have come to light recently suspecting that Al-Quaida and other terrorists were issued passports and visas;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that in cover up bid the Embassies/Consulates have destroyed the relevant records;
 - (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) what action Government have taken in this regard and what action is proposed to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

Chinese arms with North-East insurgents

- 823. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Pioneer" dated the 25th December, 2001, under the heading 'Chinese AK-47s floating in North-East';
- (b) if so, whether Government had made any assessment about the availability of Chinese arms in North-East for insurgents, and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the matter was taken up with the Government of China with whom Government had entered into an understanding that they would not offer encouragement to North-East insurgents; and
 - (d) if so, the result thereof?

Assistance to Assam insurgents and ISI

- 824. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh is providing various kind of assistance to Assam insurgents and to ISI activities;
 - (b) if so, the details of such assistance;
- (c) whether Government have raised the matter with the Bangladesh Government; and
 - (d) if so, their response thereto?

Issue of fake passports

- †825. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that fake passports are still being issued unhindered in the country;

- (b) if so, whether Government are going to take any steps to prevent the same; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Maoists bases in the border States

- 826. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware that Maoists from Nepal have set up their bases in India particularly in the border States;
- (b) if so, whether the Government of Nepal has urged the Indian Government to prevent Maoists from making Indian territory their base or transit corridor;
- (c) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (d) the details of the other steps Government propose to take to check Maoists activities in the country?

Anti-India activities in Pakistan Embassy in Kathmandu

- 827. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
 - SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
 - DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
- Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Pakistan Embassy in Kathmandu is major hub of ISI activities including terrorism;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there clandestine anti-India activities have been brought to the notice of the Pakistan Government;
 - (d) if so, their reaction in this regard; and
 - (e) the action taken to provide Pakistan,

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[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

proof of these nefarious activities in the Pakistan Embassy?

Indo-American cooperation

- †828. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) the areas in which agreement for joint ventures has been signed between India and America;
- (b) whether America has expressed its willingness to play a military role in Kashmir, and if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the decision Government propose to take in this regard?

British Prime Minister's statement on Kashmir

- 829. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Prime Minister of UK, on his arrival at New Delhi on 4th January, 2002, made a statement that Pakistan's position on Kashmir is very strong;
- (b) if so, whether it shows that UK's position on Kashmir is quite clear;
- (c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto: and
- (d) to what extent his visit has been a successful keeping in view of his statement?

Export of software to Pakistan and Taliban

- 830. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it had come to Government's notice sometime back that a Bangalore based Chinese software firm has been exporting

- software to Pakistan and Taliban prejudicial to the country's security interests;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

Regional cooperation on Economic Development in North Eastern Region

- 831. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) the various efforts made by Government and consequent response of the neighbouring countries in the process of restoration of peace in the North-Eastern Region as well as control of cross border drugs and arms trafficking;
- (b) the efforts made for regional cooperation on economic development and country-wise response for promotion of border trade to substitute illegal trade including drugs and arms being considered for Joint Venture Project with Myanmar;
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the list of joint venture economic activities, investment made by Government in those countries?

Rehabilitation of minorities in Bangladesh

832. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-CHARJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sometime back the Vishwa Hindu Parishad demanded that Government should take up with the Government of Bangladesh the question of providing a homeland out of its territory for the rehabilitation of the Hindu who were recently subjected to extreme atrocities;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details of the representation submitted by the VHP to the Ministry of External Affairs in their Memorandum:
- (c) what action has been taken/proposed to be taken with regard thereto; and
- (d) what further steps are proposed to be taken to safeguard interest of the Hindu minorities in Bangladesh?

Passage of Indian wheat via Pakistan

833. SHRI ABANI ROY:

DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Pakistan has stopped the passage of Indian wheat and other relief materials to Afghanistan through its territory under UN aid to Afghanistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the grounds on which Pakistan denied India to provide transit facilities;
- (c) whether the wheat was infested with germs and diseases; if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by Government in this regard and whether India has now decided to send wheat *via* Iran?

Cooperation to fight against terrorism

- †834. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have called up the various countries in the world to extend co-operation to fight against the terrorism prevailing in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the various countries in the world and the countries

which have given an assurance of their cooperation to India; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

America's strategy to ease Indo-Pak tension

- 835. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the US Secretary of State, on the eve of his recent visit to New Delhi *via* Islamabad, had said that he had come with fresh ideas to ease Indo-Pak tensions;
- (b) if so, what were the fresh ideas revealed by General Powell; and
- (c) what was Government's reaction and response thereto?

Visit of Parliamentary delegations to various countries

- 836. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether a number of Parliamentary delegations consisting of MPs of both the Houses visited various countries recently;
 - (b) if so, the purpose of such visits;
- (c) whether such visits have yielded the desired results; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Chinese Premier's visit to India

†837. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:

> SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese Premier has visited India recently;

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[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details of the bilateral discussions held and agreements signed between the two countries; and
- (c) the details of the efforts made by Government to restore normalcy on the border and to recover Indian land under Chinese occupation?

Collective efforts to suppress American influence in the world

†838. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India, China and Russia are considering to make collective efforts in order to control the increasing influence of America in the world and whether Russia is constantly pressurising on it;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government would raise the issue of stopping military assistance constantly being provided by China to Pakistan and taking back the occupied land of India: and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

American strategy to fight terrorism

839. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the speech made by US President George W. Bush in his "State of Union Address" outlining the American strategy to fight terrorism and the future course to be pursued indicating that DPRK (North Korea), Iran and Iraq would be its next targets; and

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

US mediation in Indo-Pak relation

- 840. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the US administration has offered to mediate in Indo-Pak relation to resume bilateral talks; and
- (b) if so, the details of the US offer and Government's response in this regard?

Indus Water Treaty

841. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURU): SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to unilaterally abrogate the Indus Water Treaty to bring pressure to bear on Pakistan to take effective steps to help fight terrorism by banning terrorist activities by militant outfits operating from Pakistan including Pak occupied Kashmir; and
- (b) if so, what specific steps have been taken for abrogation of the Treaty and what are the precise repercussions thereof on Indian and Pakistani interest?

Indian delegation to Afghanistan

- 842. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government are sending a high level delegation to Afghanistan to discuss ways and means to help rebuild Afghanistan;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) whether India has already granted Afghanistan MFN status and has offered to put the whole weight of the Indian industry to help in this programme; and
- (c) if so, the progress made in this regard?

Peace talks between LTTE and Sri Lanka in India

- 843. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have received any request from any quarter to allow the outlawed LTTE to hold peace talks with Sri Lanka in India; and
- (b) if so, from whom and the decision, if any, taken in this regard?

Pakistan's rejection to hand over criminals

- 844. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Pakistan President bluntly rejected India's demand for handing over criminals and terrorists, such as JeM Chief Masood Azhar, adding that linking of Kashmir issue with the attack on Parliament caused problems;
- (b) if so, whether Government see any distinction between Pak-backed terrorists' activities in Kashmir and terrorism perpetrated by them at Parliament and elsewhere; and
- (c) Government's reaction to Pak President's rejection of the said demand?

Atrocities on minorities in Bangladesh

- 845. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
 - (a) whether Government had

approached the UN Human Rights Commission in the wake of rampant atrocities and human rights violations perpetrated on Hindu and other minorities in Bangladesh and a surge of fundamentalism sweeping that country following the recent change of Government regime in that country;

- (b) if so, the terms of reference and issues brought up before the Commission; and
- (c) the response of the Commission thereto?

Pendency of passport applications at Bareilly Passport Office

846. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-

SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:

- Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of applications for passports pending with the Passport Office, Bareilly at the beginning of 2002;
- (b) the number of applications received by the Passport Office, Bareilly since 10th January, 2002 (till date);
- (c) the maximum and the minimum pendency period in respect of applications pending clearance at the beginning of 2002;
 - (d) the reasons therefor; and
- (e) what measures have been taken by Government to clear backlog of passport applications by the Passport Office, Bareilly?

Charges against criminals demanded by India from Pakistan

847. SHRI AMAR SINGH: SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of terrorists/criminals alongwith the charges against each for whose extradition have been demanded by Government from the Government of Pakistan; and
- (b) Pakistan Government's response in this regard?

Killing of security personnel in West Bengal

848. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Bangladeshbased faction of the Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami is reportedly involved in the killing of Security personnel of the West Bengal on the American Centre in Kolkata;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the matter was taken up with the Government of Bangladesh; and
 - (d) if so, with what result?

Passport scandal in Houston consulate

849. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Passport scandal in Houston Consulate" appearing in the Hindustan Times on the 21st January, 2002;
 - (b) if so the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that fake passports were issued from Indian consulate-General's offices at Houston, San Fransisco, Chicago and New York;
- (d) if so, since when these activities were being carried out and the number of fake passports issued; and

(e) the action taken against the concerned officials?

British Prime Minister's visit

- 850. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether British Prime Minister visited India recently;
- (b) if so, the details of the matters discussed; and
 - (c) the outcome of the discussions?

Unemployment scenario

- 851. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the present unemployment scenario;
- (b) the growth of unemployment since introduction of the structural reforms; and
- (c) the details of the effective steps taken by Government to increase employment opportunities especially in the public sector?

Agricultural workers in Punjab

- †852. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have conducted any survey for determination of the existing number of the agricultural workers in Punjab;
- (b) if so, the details thereof in respect of male, female and child labourers, separately; and
- (c) the rate of minimum wages prescribed for them and the manner in which it is implemented?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Number of unemployed persons

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

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed persons is increasing in the country as per the data available with the Planning Commission, regarding the number of unemployed persons;
- (b) if so, the number of unemployed persons in the each month of March during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and
- (c) the estimated number of unemployed persons during March 2002 on the basis of the average annual growth rate of unemployment during the last years?

Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana

- 854. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are implementing Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana (KSSSY) in the country to provide social security to agricultural workers:
- (b) if so, the salient features of the Yojana; and
- (c) the status of the Yojana in Andhra Pradesh?

Employment scenario in Punjab

- †855. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) the findings of the "National Sample Survey" in respect of employment situation

prevailing in Punjab during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

- (b) the reasons for increase in the rate of unemployment especially amongst the rural youth; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to increase employment opportunities for rural youths?

Labour force

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to uplift and take care of the well-being of the vast labour force of the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government would consider constructing independent hospitals in labour-dominated places like Sivakasi and other industrialised centres like Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu?

Schemes/programmes for welfare of Child Labour

- 857. SHRI NABAM REBIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of the schemes and programmes formulated and being implemented by Government in the country for welfare of child labour; and
- (b) the funds allocated for implementation of the said schemes?

Unemployed people in the country

- 858. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have made any assessment of the number of unemployed people in the country;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the annual rate of increase in unemployment; and
- (c) the likely annual rate of increase in unemployment during the next decade?

ESI model hospitals

- 859. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up ESI model hospitals in the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) how many States have so far given their consent for setting up of ESI model hospitals; and
- (d) by when Government are going to bring in a legislation before Parliament for setting up of the Employees State Insurance Corporation in order to improve the medical services delivery system under the ESI Scheme in each State?

Supreme Court's verdict on closure of factories

- 860. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that a Constitutional Bench of the Supreme Court in a recent verdict made Government clearance mandatory for the purpose of declaring a factory closed;
- (b) whether in the same verdict the Supreme Court has opined that a factory may not be allowed to be closed on public interest despite there is justification by the employer; and
- (c) how many industries have been declared closed without Government's prior permission?

Right to Work as a Fundamental Right

861. DR. KARAN SINGH: SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to secure the Right to Work to all as a Fundamental Right; and
- (b) if so, whether any plan of action has been laid down or is being worked out to secure this Right to all citizens; if so, the details thereof and the steps taken and being taken in pursuance thereof?

Implementation of Fifth Pay Commission report by ESI

- 862. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the competent authority of ESI has extended the Fifth Pay Commission recommendations to the Doctors and Nurses working at par with the guidelines of Director General Health Services, Ministry of Health;
- (b) whether the above criteria is applied in implementing pay scales as recommended by the Fifth Central Pay Commission to the Dietician working under the ESI; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Compensation to agricultural labourers

- 863. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are actively considering the proposal to compensate the agricultural labourers who die while at work;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Employment Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

- 864. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of Employment Exchange functioning in Andhra Pradesh at present, District-wise;
- (b) the details indicating the trades of the employed youths registered with each employment exchange during the last five years; and
- (c) the number of youths provided employment during the last five years, district-wise and year-wise?

Percentage of Secretary's from Central Services Group-'A' Officers

- 865. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) the percentage of the posts of Secretary to Government of India or equivalent thereof, being held by officers of the Central Services Group 'A' at present;
- (b) what such percentages were for the years 1990 to 2001, year-wise?

Purchase of stationery item by Government Departments

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms had issued an Office Memorandum No. 14/14/80-Welfare on 14th July, 1981;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the same OM is violative of the provisions contained in the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 and whether the OM preaches monopoly making mandatory and incumbent on Government offices to purchase stationery and other items from the Kendriya Bhandar only:
- (d) whether there is any proposal to revoke the said OM;
 - (e) if so, by when; and
 - (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Raids conducted by CBI

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of the officers in the administrative services found guilty in the raids conducted by the C.B.I. has been increasing during the last three years;
- (b) if not, the respective number of these officers during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the officers suspended due to being found guilty after the raids have already been reinstated in Government service even before their acquittal by the courts; and
- (d) if so,the number of such officers during each of the above years?

Charge sheet issued by discharged officers

†868. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discharged officer can issue a charge sheet to his ex-subordinate staff for any misconduct;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details of the provisions as such; and
- (c) if not, the legal status of such a charge sheet?

Promotion of promotee section officers

869. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Direct Recruit Section Officers of CSS are still being promoted as Under Secretary on their becoming eligible while promotee Section Officers with much longer years of service have to wait for their turn;
 - (b) the factual position in this behalf;
- (c) whether the direct recruits are still being allowed anti-dated seniority by virtue of their appointment against the confirmed post, if so, whether this procedure has since been done away with; if not, the reasons therefor:
- (d) till when this situation is likely to continue; and
- (e) the measures taken by Government so far, for resolving this anomaly?

Appointment of Professors in IIPA

870. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi has issued an advertisement in the 'Times of India', New Delhi on 16th January, 2002 inviting potential candidates for the posts of Professors, Associate Professors and others;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there is no mention of the qualifications, experience, aptitude and age for the potential candidates

in the advertisement and sufficient time has not been given for applying to the posts;

- (c) if so, the reasons for ignoring these important aspects;
- (d) whether Government would enquire into the matter and release afresh and proper advertisement: and
 - (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rules governing suspension of Government employees

- 871. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) the details of circumstances in which CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965, provide for placing a Government employee under suspension;
- (b) the details of provision which provide for pending the Disciplinary Authorities, if they violate the provisions of Rule 10 of CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965; and
- (c) the mechanism to monitor such violations?

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

872. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a new Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) has been formulated for the Central Government employees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the special incentives and concessions offered to make the scheme attractive, the likely reduction in the work force, Departmentwise, and the road map drawn therefor;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the Scheme does not provide for retrenchment

in case an employee refuses the Voluntary Retirement Scheme; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated to make the Scheme workable and effective to down-size the various Departments?

Relaxation to some candidates in UPSC Exams

873. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the partial modification of Union Public Service Commission's (UPSC) notice for Civil Service (Main) Examination, 1999 in Employment News dated 12th December, 1998, to provide for exemption to few aspirants to appear in Paper-I on Indian Language (Compulsory Paper); and
- (b) what prompted UPSC to give such relaxation in the criteria and the reasons behind lack of uniformity for the same?

Representation of minorities in the selection committees

- 874. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether instructions were issued several years back to include a representative of minorities in the selection committees/ boards of each Government organization;
- (b) whether Government are aware that in most of the Government organizations these instructions are not being followed;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken for implementation thereof; and
- (d) if not, the organizations in which the instructions are being followed?

Misuse of position by officers

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that during the last three years the acts of committing partiality by misusing the position by the officers of administrative services in the country have come to light during the course of a high level inquiry conducted recently;
- (b) if so, the names of the officers found guilty of being involved;
- (c) the positions where from they committed the act of partiality; and
- (d) the names of officials out of the above against whom further inquiry is being conducted?

Re-appointment in IIPA

- 876. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi (IIPA) have reappointed several retired Government officers/IIPA officers at the Institute without adhering to any rules;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether IIPA have recently advertised for the post of Public Relation Officer (PRO) in the core budget without having approval of the Ministry and to show favouritism to a particular candidate;
- (d) whether Government would take the burden of the expenditure for the post of PRO; and
 - (e) if so, the reasons therefor?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

PM's new package for Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir

- 877. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of financial assistance package programmes to the Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir:
- (b) whether it is a fact that a new PM's package programme has been announced for Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir; and
- (c) if so, by when the package programme would be implemented?

Introduction of monitoring system for Central projects

- 878. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that taking cognizance of the fact that a number of Centre and State sponsored schemes were not implemented in time or allocated funds diverted for other purposes, the Planning Commission has introduced a system to monitor and measure the quarterly performance of projects;
- (b) whether it was found that Government were unable to monitor and control schemes to ensure their timely implementation; and
- (c) if so, what are the details of this system and the accountability for its success?

Per capita income

- 879. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) the per capita income of the country at present *vis a vis* each of the last five years, State-wise;

- (b) the steps taken/proposed by Government to increase the per capita income:
- (c) the efforts made and incentives given to the States to increase their per capita income; and
- (d) the per capita income likely to be achieved during the current financial year and for the next financial year?

Financial condition of States

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

- (a) whether finances of the State Governments have deteriorated since 1998;
- (b) if so, the details of the various aspects of this deterioration; and
- (c) the details of the measures taken by the Central and State Governments to improve the situation?

Per capita income in Ninth Five Year Plan

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have made any assessment with regard to per capita income of each State of the country during each year of the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the per capita income of the citizens of each State upto the month of March during the year 2000; and
- (c) the per capita income as in March, 1991?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Allocation and release of funds to NER States

882. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the funds allocated and released to the States of NER during the Ninth Five Year Plan and proposed to be allocated during the Tenth Plan, item-wise; and
- (b) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

Growth rate in Ninth Plan

- 883. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Ninth Five Year Plan is going to record a lowest growth rate in the last two decades;
- (b) if so, the comparative details of GDP growth rate in last three Plans;
- (c) the reasons for the slow growth rate in the Ninth Plan period; and
- (d) whether due to the aggressive implementation of economic reforms Government have failed to increase the growth rate during the current Plan?

Decline in expenditure on food items

- 884. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government are aware of the Central Statistical Organisation data that expenditure on food declined by 4 per cent in normal terms and 2.7 per cent in inflation adjusted rates during 2000-2001;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of consumption levels;
 - (c) the reasons for this decline; and

(d) the item-wise expenditure which has recorded a decline?

Performance of States in resource

885. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that performance of the States in terms of resource mobilisation during the Ninth Plan has been quite disappointing with actual realisation of Rs. 2,88,052 crore against a target of Rs. 3,54,709 crore;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that borrowing by the States amounts to Rs. 2,93,242 crore which is actually more than the total mobilised resources; and
- (c) if so, the action Government propose to take to ensure better and more balanced management of the country's finances?

Discontinuation of Central Sector Projects

886. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to discontinue all Central Sector and Centrally sponsored schemes with less than Rs. 20 crores;
- (b) if so, the criteria fixed for weeding out the schemes;
- (c) whether Government have identified such schemes; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

Regional Training Centre for motorists in Bhopal

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

(a) whether the State Government of

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Madhya Pradesh has submitted a proposal to Government on 23rd March, 2001 to give special grant to set up Regional Training Centre for motorists in Bhopal and also to set up Highway Patrolling check posts at some additional places; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard?

Construction of roads under East West corridor programme

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

- (a) the stretch of road already constructed and proposed to be completed by March, 2002 under the four laning of East-West corridor programme State-wise;
- (b) whether four laning of National Highway-52 is included in any other programme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof indicating the target set, status of sanction and implementing agency, finalised, if any; and
- (d) the amount allocated and actually utilised for National Highways in Assam during the last three years, head-wise and road-wise?

Externally aided projects of National Highways

889. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and details of the externally aided projects of National Highways;
- (b) the amount received from external agencies during the last three years;
- (c) how many of those projects are World Bank funded projects, OECF funded projects, ADB projects and any other external agencies; and

(d) the quantum of funds received from these agencies during the last three years and the length of roads built thereby?

Approval of proposals under CRF

890. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

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

- (a) whether Government approve the proposals of different States under the Central Road Fund, for State, District and Village roads of respective State;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Central Road Fund is collected by the concerned State: and
- (c) if so, why Government insist upon approving proposals under CRF which cause much delay and unnecessary administrative burden?

Development of National Highways in NER

- 891. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have been developing National Highways in the North Eastern Region;
- (b) if so, the funds allocated and released for development of National Highways, State-wise/Year-wise, National Highwayswise during the last three years; and
- (c) the latest status of the progress of various National Highways in NER?

Grants for maintenance of NHs

- 892. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
 - (a) whether it has come to Government's

notice that repairing and maintenance of National Highways are not upto the standard laid down therefor:

- (b) whether it is due to low grants given to the States:
- (c) whether Government are considering to raise these grants on the actual execution cost basis; and
- (d) if so, the details of such new plan and if not, the reasons therefor?

Road Length

893. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

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

- (a) the road length covered under National Highways, State Highways, Major District Roads and village roads, State and Union Territory-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that looking to the comprehensive Road Planning from 1982-2001, for twenty years many States are far away from achieving their targets; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union Territory-wise?

Poor construction of National Highways in Rajasthan

894. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Highways of Rajasthan are in a very poor condition and more prone towards accident;
- (b)what steps have been taken by Government to verify poor quality of construction and the action to be initiated against the contractors; and

(c) by when, these National Highways would be repaired?

Road accidents

- 895. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) the number of road accidents in the first six months of this financial year and the fatality accounted as a result thereof, State-wise:
- (b) how it compares with the previous year; and
- (c) the new preventive actions taken by Government to reduce the same?

Road accidents in Kerala

896. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a large number of lives are lost due to road accidents on the National Highways and State Highways of Kerala.
- (b) if so, the number of such accidents and loss of lives during the last three years, district-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether maintenance work of the National Highways and State Highways were done in time;
- (d) whether there is any plan to rubberise the National Highways and State Highways in Kerala; and
- (e) if so, the expenditure per km. for the above and the advantage compared to the conventional road maintenance?

National Highway status to Shimla-Chadhgaon Highway

- †897. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to give status of the National Highway to Shimla-Chadhgaon Highway on the basis of norms laid in this regard; and
- (b) if so, whether Government would sanction the requisite amount for the same during the year 2002-2003?

Progress of National Highways Development Project

- 898. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to levy additional cess on petrol and diesel for developing road infrastructure; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the other steps proposed to expedite slow progress of the National Highways Development Project?

Upgradation of Hubli-Bijapur Highway as National Highway

- 899. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether upgradation of the highway between Hubli and Bijapur to the National Highway standards has begun;
- (b) if so, the amount released to Karnataka from the Central Road Fund;
- (c) whether the State Government has sought another Rs. 10 crores for the above work;

- (d) if so, the amount sought for the other works in the State; and
- (e) the action if any, taken to release additional amount to the State from the Central Road Fund?

Impact of reforms in SSI Sector

- 900. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) what has been the impact of structural reforms on the Small Scale Industry Sector;
- (b) whether small scale sector has suffered due to opening up of the economy;
 - (c) if not, how;
- (d) whether Government propose to provide preferential opportunity to extend investment limit for SSI: and
 - (e) if so, the details thereof?

Sustenance of SSI in foreign markets

- †901. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Indian Small Scale Industries have not been able to sustain themselves in foreign markets due to fierce competition;
- (b) if so, the steps Government are going to take to strengthen them; and
 - (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Financial assistance to SSI

- 902. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) the financial assistance granted to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Uttaranchal for schemes of small scale industries;

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) whether Government have sought the progress report regarding utilisation of the funds, district-wise;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Economic package for SSI

- 903. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government propose to announce any economic package to protect small scale industries functioning at present in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Single Business Act for SSI

904. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Confederation of Indian Industry has requested for a Single Business Act to govern Small Sector Industry units;
- (b) if so, the points suggested to ensure business development for SSI to attract FDI; and
 - (c) the action taken thereon?

Shortage of transponders

- 905. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing shortage of transponders;
 - (b) whether it is also a fact that the

country is also facing a severe shortage of C-band transponders;

- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the number of transponders utilised by the country from 1998 to December, 2001 year-wise?

Discontinuation of Central projects

- †906. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:
- (a) whether Government have decided to discontinue 1076 projects out of total projects being run through the Central assistance and the Central projects;
- (b) if so, the amount spent by Government so far on these projects and results achieved therefrom;
- (c) what has been return of the amount spent so far on these projects during the last two years;
- (d) whether the amount has been misused; and
- (e) if so, whether any action has been taken is being taken/would be taken against the persons held responsible for it?

Speedy completion of Central Sector Projects

- 907. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that majority of the Central Sector Projects are suffering cost-overrun and time overrun;
 - (b) if so, the reasons for such delay; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to complete projects as quickly as possible?

[†]Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

GDP growth rate

908. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the latest quick estimate of GDP growth in real terms during 2000-2001 to 4 per cent assessed by CSO Compare a full, two per cent below the original estimate made in January, 2001 and 1.2 per cent below the revised estimate released recently in June, 2001; and

(b) if so, the details of the GDP as well as the sectoral growth rate?

New Delhi; *The 1st March*, 2002 *Phalguna* 10, 1923 (*Saka*) R.C. TRIPATHI, Secretary-General.

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