

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Friday, the March 7, 2003/Phalgun 16, 1924 (Saka)*

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

Total number of questions—155

Raising productivity of Agriculture in dry areas

1697. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan
to raise productivity of agriculture in dry
areas of the country, if so, the details
thereof;

(b) whether Government would ensure
lending to small and medium farmers of
dry land who have less than five acres of
land; and

(c) the money allocated for farmers
having land holdings below five acres during
the last three years?

Drought/temperature adapted crops

1698. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA
SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps taken to make
our crops adapt to climatic change
especially in a drought like situation; and

(b) the contingency plan proposed to
ensure optimum yield even on change of
temperature pattern?

Crop strategy due to delayed monsoon

1699. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any alternate crop strategy
has been chalked out for badly affected
States due to delayed monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other proposed rational method
of supporting the income of farmers?

National Agriculture Insurance Scheme

1700. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRA-
IAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States that have opted
for National Agriculture Insurance Scheme
of the Central Government;

(b) what are the main features of the
scheme;

(c) the share of premium paid by the
Centre and the concerned States for the
scheme; and

(d) what are the other details of the scheme?

(c) what steps are being taken to meet out the shortage of production of milk in comparison to its consumption?

Restriction on cattle movement through U.P.

1701. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Uttar Pradesh Government has placed restriction on movement of cattle through its territory, either through road or rail;

(b) whether this restriction has placed many people engaged in cattle rearing and dairy industries in Bihar to considerable inconvenience; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take steps to tackle this problem, if so, by what time?

Milk production

† 1702. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey regarding quantum of total production of milk, in the Government and non-Government sectors in the country State-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof and quantum of total requirement of milk daily, State-wise; and

Hemendra Kumar Committee

† 1703. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee headed by Shri Hemendra Kumar was constituted in August, 2002;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee and whether it has submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, the suggestions made in the report; and

(d) the number of suggestions Government have decided to implement?

Licensing procedure for aquaculture farms

1704. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received requests from States to expedite licencing procedure for aquaculture farms;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in granting licences;

(d) whether Government have assessed the impact of non-issuing the licenses on

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

marine products exports in the country;
and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Banning import of poultry products

1705. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that
poultry products are imported from
various countries, including the countries
where diseases like Aian Influenza are
prevalent;

(b) if so, whether Government propose
to take any action to ban import of poultry
products from such countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Decline in foodgrains output

1706. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that
there is a sharp decline in output of
foodgrains during 2002-2003 as reported
in the Hindu' dated 12th February, 2003;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for
sharp decline in output of foodgrains;

(c) whether Government in consultation
with State Governments/NGOs propose
to formulate a strategy to boost production
of foodgrains and also to improve output;
and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Standing Committee for Agricultural Marketing Reforms

1707. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred
Question 1042 given in the Rajya Sabha
on the 29th November, 2002 and state:

(a) whether the report of the Standing
Committee of State Ministers and
representatives of concerned Central
Government Deptt./Agencies has been
submitted to Government; and

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

Opening dairies in States

† 1708. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are
contemplating to open dairies in Uttar
Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa,
and Rajasthan and other States during the
current financial year;

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

(c) by when they are likely to be
opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Loss of livestock in Rajasthan

1709. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED
KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of livestock expired due

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

to extreme cold conditions that prevailed in Rajasthan during December, 2002 January 2003, District-wise;

(b) whether loss of livestock has added to the miseries of the farmers of Rajasthan who are already undergoing the wrath of severe drought of last summer;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to sanction some relief to those farmers who have lost their livestock in Rajasthan; and

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

Agricultural subsidies to Rajasthan

1710. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural subsidies extended in different forms, to farmers of Rajasthan in view of acute drought in the State;

(b) whether any such proposals are under consideration of Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

CLA for Rajasthan

1711. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that annual decline in ground water in drought, arid and desert conditions in Rajasthan has resulted in loss of lacs of hectares of fertile land to the State;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is willing to discuss with the Ministry of Water

Resources to allow Rajasthan with liberal norms for Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP); and

(c) if so, by when the CLA would be implemented?

Production of European vegetables

† 1712. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any project to produce European vegetables in the country itself;

(b) if so, the names of the States where these vegetables will be produced; and

(c) the names of the said vegetables?

Grants to KVKs in Orissa

1713. SHRIMATI PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the grant provided to Krishi Vigyan Kendras working in Orissa by Government during the last three years, place-wise; and

(b) the details of programmes undertaken by those Kendras for benefits of the farmers?

Fodder shortage in Orissa

1714. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of fodder due to serious drought situation in Orissa;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to strengthen fodder bank and seed production in the State;

(c) whether any amount has been released to that State in this regard during 2002-2003; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

NDDB's joint ventures with State Dairy Federations

1715. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has decided to set up joint ventures with State Dairy Federations to market milk; and

(b) if so, the details of such joint ventures proposed to be set up?

Production and export of fruits and vegetables

1716. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the Indian position in regard to export of these items;

(c) the steps proposed to boost India's export of vegetables and fruits; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

Amendments to the Seeds Act

1717. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of

the need of amendments in Seeds Act, 2000;

(b) whether Government propose to streamline the production of seeds as also its export, import and sales; and

(c) whether Government propose to ensure setting up of Seeds Boards at State-level also and linking them up with the National Seeds Board?

Recommendations of Committee to make SAUs farmer friendly

1718. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee, appointed to make the State Agriculture Universities (SAUs) more farmer-friendly and market-oriented, has given its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations;

(c) whether the ban on opening of new SAUs, creations of new facilities and levy of one per cent cess by State Governments on agriculture produce etc. as recommended by the committee would not adversely affect the activities of SAUs; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures are being taken by Government?

Study on impact of weather conditions on agriculture

1719. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Rs. 10 crore project, to study the impact of change in weather patterns on agriculture across the country, has been undertaken recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the project?

Laws to control duplicate seed manufacturing companies

1720. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the existing laws to nail the fraud and duplicate seed manufacturing companies who are playing with the lives of our farmers;

(b) whether Government feel that the existing laws are insufficient to bring them to book;

(c) whether Government are planning to introduce new legislation in the Parliament; and

(d) how many such manufacturing companies are brought to book in Karnataka since last three years?

Improving sugarcane production

1721. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugarcane growers are unable to produce good crop in the absence of prototype and technical knowledge of production and quality of agricultural fields in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

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

(c) the details of assistance being provided by Government to the sugarcane growers for the development of better sugarcane varieties and promote sugarcane cultivation alongwith the main features of the draft of the scheme for the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

Impact of foreign seeds

† 1722. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the foreign seeds companies which are selling their seeds in the country;

(b) the names of the regions where foreign seeds are being used alongwith their varieties; and

(c) whether the investigating agencies have conducted tests about the impact and ill effects of the foreign seeds in the context of Indian environment?

Reimbursement to Karnataka for MIS

1723. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government to intervene and direct the Ministry of Agriculture to reimburse a sum of Rs. 2.34 crores claimed by that State Government, spent as a part of Market Intervention Scheme in regard to procurement of potatoes in Dharwar and Belgaum Districts;

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter; and

(c) by when, the reimbursement can be expected to be received by Karnataka?

Deficiency of calcium in Cattle

† 1724. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item published in the Daily Dainik Bhaskar under the caption, "Pradesh ke Pashu Calcium kee kami ke shikar";

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that milk not containing calcium is harmful for children;

(c) whether Government would make it mandatory for all the States to undertake examination of the cattle and, if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government for providing good quality milk to the people?

Assistance to Gaushalas and Panjara Poles

1725. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA
SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount has been sanctioned to Gaushalas and Panjara Poles from the amount of Rs. 25 crores declared on 18th December, 2002 to save the cattle in drought affected States;

(b) what is the mechanism to decide about the quantum of such financial assistance; and

(c) what are the estimated numbers of cattle heads in drought affected areas of the country, State-wise?

Bovine Commission

† 1726. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Bovine Commission, set up for Bovine promotion, has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations made in the report;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Conditions of small and marginal farmers

1727. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR
REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA
RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pitiable conditions of small and marginal farmers leading to distress sale of their products and to suicides in extreme cases;

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

(c) whether a study has been conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of findings;

(e) whether Government have formulated any plan to offer reliefs to these farmers;

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

(g) whether Government propose to waive crop insurance premium for them; and

(h) how the Tenth Five Year Plan addresses to the problems of these farmers?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Production of export quality rice

1728. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even after extending 50 per cent subsidy on inputs for cultivating export quality rice, the farmers are unable to compete in the International market;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to make agriculture cost-effective by adapting new technologies?

Employment opportunities in agriculture sector

† 1729. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of the fact that India being an agricultural country, the numbers of opportunities for creation of jobs in the agriculture sector in the country have declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan for creating additional job opportunities in the agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Self-Sufficiency in oil seeds production

† 1730. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any

assessment regarding requirement of oil seeds in the country;

(b) if so, the annual requirement of oil seeds in the country;

(c) average annual production of oil seeds during the last few years; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that country is still not self-reliant in production of oil seeds?

Corporatising DMS

1731. SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to corporatise the Delhi Milk Scheme; and

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

Fall in Agricultural production

1732. SHRI CHO S. RAMA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Agricultural growth is on the decline, if so, what is the level to be achieved this year;

(b) the States which have reported negative growth;

(c) what are the main causes of the negative growth; and

(d) what major steps are being initiated to improve the agricultural growth in the country?

Price monitoring by NPPA

1733. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the system being followed by

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) for monitoring the prices of decontrolled drugs; and

(b) whether it is a fact that NPPA has issued notices to companies on the pricing of decontrolled formulations, if so, the names of the companies, the names of the medicines and the prices being charged?

Fuel used in production of Fertilizers

† 1734. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH
'LALAN':

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

(a) whether it is a fact that different types of fuel are being used for the production of different Chemicals and Fertilizers in the Country;

(b) if so, name of the fuels used for the production of fertilizers in the country, during the year 2002;

(c) the production capacity of the projects by the use of each type of fuel; and

(d) their cost of production separately?

VRS in IDPL

1735. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the workers in the various units of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, (IDPL) have accepted the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS);

(b) if so, the strength of the employees including officers in each of the IDPL units,

how many of them have accepted VRS offer and how many have not;

(c) what are the terms of the VRS and when it is going to be implemented; and

(d) what will be the fate of the employees who have not accepted the VRS proposal?

Neem mixed fertilizer

1736. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA
RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Neem has been proved to be a very useful fertilizer and Neem mixed fertilizer has increased crop yields to a large extent;

(b) if so, whether extensive tests have been conducted in this regard;

(c) the details of the tests; and

(d) when this Neem mixed Urea would be used on large scale in the country?

Revival schemes for Central PSUs

1737. DR. DASARI NARAYANA
RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BIFR had sanctioned revival schemes for Central PSUs, Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd., and Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd., located in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revival schemes have been implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Chemical Fertilizer projects in Public Sector

†1738. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Chemical Fertilizer producing projects are working under public sector in the country;

(b) if so, the production capacity of such projects;

(c) the percentage of production capacity utilized by these projects in the year 2002; and

(d) the names of projects found unviable during the year 2002 alongwith the details of their production capacity?

Rejection of New Pharma Policy

1739. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bangalore High Court has rejected the new Pharma Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what further action is being taken by Government to defend its position; and

(d) by when Government propose to come out with the new Drugs Price Control Order?

Pension to women affected by Bhopal Gas tragedy

†1740. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand has been made

by the women affected by Bhopal gas tragedy to increase the amount of pension being given at present to them; and

(b) if so, the number of such women togetherwith the existing amount of pension and the decision Government have taken or contemplating to take on their demand?

VSS in Durgapur unit of HFCL

1741. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per AAIFR's order revival of Durgapur unit of HFCL was to be reconsidered by BIFR;

(b) whether before the hearing of BIFR, almost all the employees of the unit were released on Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS);

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) when were the release orders actually issued to the individual employees; and

(e) payments made so far to the employees against their terminal dues?

VSS in Haldia

1742. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some employees of Haldia, FP&ARD and Marketing of HFC were released on VSS (Voluntary Separation Scheme) with retrospective effect from 6th January, 2003 though the release orders were issued to the employees concerned on 12th January, 2003 onwards;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether denial of wages for the period from 6th January onward till the date of actual release is not a violation of existing labour laws including Payment of Wages Act;

(c) if not, the reason therefor; and

(d) if yes, action taken to pay the wages for the above period?

Revival of Barauni unit of HFCL

1743. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to close Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation;

(b) whether it has been decided to continue Namrup Unit of the Corporation which is in a similar situation with several steps for its revival; and

(c) if so, keeping in view the requirement of fertilizers in the Northern Region and need of agriculture in Bihar, whether Government propose to revive Barauni Unit on the same line as has been adopted for Namrup and if so, by when?

Pollution in Metros

1744. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the pollution level of each of the metros in the country;

(b) what drastic action is being contemplated to bring down the pollution levels in the metros;

(c) whether it is a fact that no serious actions are being taken against polluting vehicles and industries; and

(d) the number of cases which have been booked for violation of pollution standards during the last three years?

India's proposals at Johannesburg Summit

†1745. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals submitted by India for securing concessions, assistance and consultation from developed countries for under developed countries in the Earth Summit on practical development recently held in Johannesburg;

(b) whether there was any consensus on these proposals in the above Summit and if so, the details thereof and the way in which they were reflected in the declarations and proposals; and

(c) steps taken by Government in view of these proposals?

Genetically modified food

1746. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are genetically modified (GM) food and what are the negative effects of such food on human beings;

(b) whether it is a fact that food imported from the USA containing GM Star Link corn was distributed among the school children in the country;

(c) if so, the details in this regard, the number of such incidences in the country during the last four years and the action taken against the organisations/individuals responsible for such imports; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) in what way Government propose to prevent import of such food items into the country?

Revision of Coastal Regulation Zone notification

1747. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to revise the Coastal Regulations Zone (CRZ) notification relating to No Development Zone from 200 meters to 100 meters from the High Tide Line (HTL); and

(b) if so, what restrictions will be imposed for the treatment and disposal of effluents?

Pollution under control certificates

1748. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that forged pollution under control certificates are issued in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Pune, as per recent report of the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in this regard?

Conservation of Wullar lake

1749. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wullar Lake (in Kashmir) had been included in Ramsar convention for conservation;

(b) whether any amount has been allotted for the lake; and

(c) if so, the details of expenditure incurred on the conservation of Wullar Lake since 1st April, 1999 to 31st December, 2002?

Most polluted cities

1750. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of ten cities in the country which are most polluted; and

(b) steps taken or proposed to be taken to check pollution in all cities having more than 10 lakh population?

Closure of Zoos

1751. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many Zoos in the country are being forced to close down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the States where Zoos have been closed;

(d) whether Government have received requests from the States for financial assistance and allocation of alternative sites for resettlement of Zoos; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to enable the animals to complete their normal life span, where the Zoos have been closed down?

Action taken by CPCB against defaulting hospitals

1752. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has recently issued show cause notices to five hospitals of Delhi for violating rules regarding bio-medical wastes disposal;

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

(c) action proposed to be taken by Government against the defaulting hospitals?

Cache of skins of wild animals

† 1753. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cache of skins of tigers, cheetahs and other wild animals killed in Ranthambore Tiger Project in Rajasthan has been caught anywhere in the country during the last five years; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to stop smuggling of skins and other items of animals killed in sanctuaries and tiger projects in the country; and

(c) whether skin of the tiger Bhambhu Ram, which was seen by former American President Bill Clinton in Sawai Madhopur Ranthambore Tiger Project has also been found in the skins of tigers caught in Delhi recently?

Polluted Yamuna water

1754. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Yamuna water continues to be a dirty drain;

(b) if so, whether the water quality of the river as tested on April 3, 2002 showed presence of 37 lakh faecal coliform per 100ml rendering it unfit for any purpose; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

Depletion of forests due to use of firewood

1755. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step to reduce forest depletion due to use of firewood or other traditional wood waste systems;

(b) whether Government have identified wasteful practices in the country which lead to forest depletion;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any step will be taken to afforest large area of the degraded area in the country; and

(e) if so, the details of such forestation programmes being implemented in the country?

Applications pending with RCCF

1756. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that needs of tribals are not being efficiently met by the RCCF's office;

(b) the number of applications pending with Bangalore RCCF with regard to tribals;

(c) whether the office will energize itself and settle such issues;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(d) what steps are proposed by Government to monitor all offices of Regional Chief Conservator of forests;

(e) whether they will be made more accountable for their actions or in-action; and

(f) if so, the details of steps proposed to improve such offices?

Cutting of trees for commercial use

1757. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that about 2000 trees are proposed to be uprooted from a well-laid park in Nehru Place, New Delhi to build up a huge commercial area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no other park in the area to supply fresh and pollution free air;

(d) whether the approval of the Environment and Forests Ministry has been solicited for the purpose; and

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

Felling of trees in forests

†1758. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the villagers under Kavardha Forest division of

Chhattisgarh State have dug a canal collectively inside the forest area and thousands of trees have been cut down illegally;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the indifferent attitude of the administration and non-cooperation by the Departments, the Indian Forest Conservation Act, 1980 had been violated and the said work was allowed;

(c) if so, present status thereof and the details of the action taken by the Departments;

(d) species-wise number and cost of the trees which have been cut down; and

(e) steps taken by Government against the guiltyies?

Pollution in Kanpur

1759. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kanpur is most polluted city in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to check pollution and improve the air quality in Kanpur?

Conservation of medicinal plants

1760. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rare medicinal plants have been identified in Karnataka Forests particularly Western Ghats;

(b) if so, the details of varieties of medicinal plants identified by the Ministry in the State;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the details of amount spent on medicinal plants conservation activities in the State during the past three years;

(d) whether Government propose to set up a Research and Development Institution on medicinal plants in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Encroachment in elephant's habitat

1761. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the natural passage for elephant has been encroached by human beings and as a result they stray into human inhabitants; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to correct the situation?

Sale of peacock feathers

1762. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of illegal sale of peacock feathers;

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to prevent its sale;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in National Parks and Bird Sanctuaries

1763. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the number of National Parks, Bird Sanctuaries, Zoo's, project tigers and elephants and lion safaris in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of such increase

proposed to be made in 2003-2004, State-wise?

Review of Yamuna Action Plan by IIT, Roorkee

1764. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress of the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) was reviewed by IIT, Roorkee recently; and

(b) if so, what are its findings and Government's reaction thereto?

TBGRI as National Institute

1765. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala for elevating the TBGRI into a National Institute, as the garden is unique in its setup as well as rich in flora of the tropics spread in a 300 acre natural forest land; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this regard?

Release of forest land for Wind Power Project and Mini Hydel station

1766. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for diversion of forest land for establishing a 10 MW Wind Power Project by M/s. Subhash projects and Marketing Limited, a Mini Hydel station by M/s. Sandur Power Company Pvt. Ltd., and Wind Farm Unit by M/s. Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd., were submitted to Government; and

(b) if so, by when the proposals are expected to be approved by Government?

Food processing industries in rural and tribal areas

1767. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of food processing industries set up by Government in the rural and tribal areas during the last three years;

(b) how much quantity of food and vegetables have been saved from getting rotten up by the conscious effort of Government;

(c) what is the allocation of Government for tribal areas for food processing for the current year;

(d) the figures, State-wise; and

(e) what are the commodities/fruits/vegetables that are processed in rural areas in the current year by Government, details thereof, area-wise?

Budget for universalization of education

1768. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the department of expenditure has decided to slash down Rs. 800 crores from the budget 2002-2003 which was meant for universalization of education programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposal of Government to continue the programme?

Degrees from foreign Universities

1769. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of students in our country are acquiring degrees of foreign universities through private institutions with tie-up arrangements;

(b) whether Government are treating such degrees at par with degrees obtained on the original campus;

(c) if not, what will be the status of those degrees and the future of the students; and

(d) has Government evolved any guidelines on this increasing educational trend?

Dual degree system

1770. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grant Commission has conceived a plan of dual degree system for the students studying in some universities in different parts of the country;

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

(c) whether some colleges affiliated to these universities have been selected for offering industry oriented courses along with the general studies; and

(d) if so, the list of the colleges so selected and the basis of their selection?

Accounts of Kendriya Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi

1771. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that accounts relating to Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is not subjected to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India; and

(b) if so, the rationale thereof?

Titles published during 2001-2002

1772. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state what is the total number of titles published in India during 2001-2002, language-wise and State-wise?

Research project on Bundelkhand

1773. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICHR has recently undertaken the research project "Bundelkhand ki Madhyakalin Kala aur Vastushastra";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned for the project;

(d) name and the qualification of the person to whom the project has been allotted; and

(e) whether all formalities have been completed before awarding the research work?

Child Welfare Centres in Assam

†1774. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Child Welfare Centres set up in Assam during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of Child Welfare Centres proposed to be opened in the State during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether these Child Welfare Centres are provided any foreign aid; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Admissions in school

†1775. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliament has passed any amendment in the Constitution regarding provision of free and compulsory education to all children of the age from 6 years to 14 years;

(b) if so, whether the instructions have been issued by Government to all the Government schools especially Kendriya Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalayas and Adarsh Vidyalayas to provide admissions without any difficulty; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Computer education in Madarsa

1776. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a programme to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

introduce computer education in Madarsas by the Ministry of HRD;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted on Madarsas, as to the acceptability and utility of these programmes; and

(c) whether there is also a plan to provide NCERT books translated into Urdu free of cost to the Madarsa students?

International institutions

† 1777. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of International institutions have made arrangement for imparting education by establishing schools in various States of the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States in which such arrangements for education have been made till the end of December, 2002; and

(c) the details regarding the standards as well as the courses of education being offered therein?

Programme for reducing infant and maternal mortality

1778. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

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

(a) whether India has entered into a programme of co-operation worth \$400 million with the UNICEF for five years to reduce infant and maternal mortality, to address mal-nutrition and protect-children and adolescents from HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether between 1999 and 2002, the allocation for the Government of India UNICEF Programme of Co-operation was \$300 million;

(e) if so, what are the main programmes that will be undertaken; and

(f) to what extent they are likely to be completed?

Outlay for higher education

1779. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to spend record outlay of Rs. 3,922 crore for higher education during the Tenth Plan period;

(b) if so, whether in the Eighth Plan, it was only Rs. 800 crore and in the Ninth Plan, it was only Rs. 2500 crores;

(c) whether the outlay of Eighth and Ninth Plan was fully utilised;

(d) if so, what were the results achieved;

(e) whether Government are confident that the allocation for the Tenth Plan will be fully utilised and will be helpful to the country; and

(f) if so, to what extent?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Reconstitution of CAGE

1780. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the stand taken by the Ministry regarding the reconstitution of CAGE which has been the matter of discussion over a year;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay;

(c) what prompted the Ministry to undertake the reconstitution of CAGE; and

(d) the main aims and objectives of reconstituting the CAGE?

Total expenditure on primary education

1781. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any initiatives for increasing the total expenditure on primary education in the country, particularly in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Literacy in Jharkhand

1782. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of literacy, overall as well as among male and female respectively, in the State of Jharkhand;

(b) how the same compare with current National average; and

(c) steps initiated and/or contemplated, if any, for spreading literacy, especially among the tribal population in the State of Jharkhand?

Ragging in educational institutions

1783. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to ban ragging in schools, colleges and private institutes of the country;

(b) if so, by when the same would be implemented;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of cases reported for students' death and/or critically injured as a result of ragging or torture in the last five years from various parts of the country?

Illiterates in the country

†1784. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of illiterates in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons made literate by National Literacy Mission so far, State-wise; and

(c) the details of amount spent by Government so far, State-wise?

Fee structure in Universities

1785. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Expenditure Reform Committee of the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Finance Ministry has recommended for raising the present fee structure of Universities and other educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of increase likely to be effected *viz-a-viz* the present fee being charged in the Universities and other educational institutions thereunder?

Schooling in North Eastern Region

1786. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) details of Government of India's schemes for education to all by 2003 in the North Eastern Region with particular reference to Assam; and

(b) whether such schemes are Centrally financed by Government or will it be jointly financed by Government of India and the States; if so, the details thereof?

Scholarships to SC/ST students for study abroad

† 1787. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sent/propose to send the promising students of scheduled castes/scheduled tribes in countries like America to gain Higher Education by way of awarding them scholarships;

(b) if so, the number of students sent/proposed to be sent abroad this year; and

(c) the number of male and female students sent abroad for higher studies along with details of such students from Rajasthan State?

Quality of higher education

1788. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quality of higher education including post-graduate teaching and research have of late been undergoing a downward trend in most of the Indian Universities;

(b) if so, whether the factors responsible therefor have been identified;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to set up a National Commission consisting of educational experts and academicians to go into the various ramifications of the problem; and

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

Failure of examination system

1789. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Examination system is flawed" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 27th January, 2003;

(b) if so, whether despite numerous experts committee reports, and analysis made by educationists and academicians, the examination system continues to be as flawed as it was, branding any one scoring a certain percentage of marks as "failure"; leaving a trail of suicides by students year after years; and

(c) what steps have been taken to introduce a grade based marking system and to bring about other examination reforms?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

I.T. institute in Uttaranchal

1790. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for opening of an Information Technology Institute in Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, by when this Institute is proposed to be opened and the location therefor?

Plight of children

1791. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after independence 40 per cent boys and over 50 per cent girls remain unenrolled in schools in primary stage itself;

(b) whether with an estimated 100 million, India has the highest number of working children in the world;

(c) whether Indian child has to survive and grow in an environment that is not child friendly; and

(d) if the answers to parts a, b and c are in affirmative what corrective measures are being taken by Government to ameliorate the plights and conditions of four hundred million children?

Jan Shikshan Sansthan

1792. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state whether the scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan for improving vocational skills and quality of life under the National Literacy Mission is covering districts with low literacy level as per 2001 census or the

scheme is haphazardly undertaken defeating its purpose?

Culture and values in education

1793. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main thrust and impact of the scheme to strengthen culture and values in education; and

(b) whether the scheme is being implemented as per its prescribed norms; and if not, the anomalies thereof?

Evaluation of teachers' training courses

1794. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the P.K. Kaul Committee set up to evaluate the teachers' training courses and to suggest ways to make the teachers' training outward looking and more effective for upgrading the education system which may equip the students to meet the requirements of competitive global market has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the details of major recommendations of the Committee and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

Guidelines of CBSE to appear in Board Ex ams.

† 1795. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of CBSE declared it as improper, many

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

students of 10th and 12th classes in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Delhi have not been allowed to appear in forthcoming boards examination of March, 2003 on the basis that their performance in pre-board examination is not upto the mark;

(b) if so, Examination-wise and stream wise details of such Vidyalayas and students; and

(c) the reason for taking such improper step by Kendriya Vidyalayas?

Work related education

1796. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a move to raise the cost of higher education by enhancing college fee;

(b) if so, what steps Government contemplate to take to upgrade the quality of education; and

(c) whether Government are also considering to impart work related education which is the need of the hour?

Closed Kendriya Vidyalayas

1797. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 3181 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th December, 2002 and state:

(a) details of Kendriya Vidyalayas—names and states closed/merged during the preceding three years;

(b) details of Vidyalayas and the classes wherein sections were abolished during these years; and

(c) details of Kendriya Vidyalayas proposed to be opened/closed during the ensuing academic session?

Private Universities of Orissa

1798. SHRI B.J.PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that self-financed private universities are coming up in Orissa, for imparting higher education, as reported in the New Indian Express of 14th January, 2003;

(b) objective behind such private universities and whether future of out-going students would be protected by way of recognition of their degrees for Government and other jobs;

(c) authority which would regulate appointments to posts, syllabi and other norms for efficient and competitive functioning; and

(d) whether such universities also exist in other States, if so, details thereof?

Navodaya Vidyalayas in Orissa

1799. SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

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

(a) the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas set up in different districts of Orissa by the Centre and further proposed to be sanctioned in other districts of the State;

(b) pre-conditions attached for setting up such residential schools; and

(c) whether State Government also contributes towards running of these residential schools, if so, the details thereof?

Kendriya Vidyalaya in Karnataka

1800. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI K.B. KRISHNA
MURTHY:

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

(a) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas functioning in Karnataka;

(b) the number of new Kendriya Vidyalayas so far opened in the country during 2002-03;

(c) out of which, how many of them are in Karnataka;

(d) whether there is any demand from Karnataka for opening of more Kendriya Vidyalayas; and

(e) if so, the action if any, taken in this regard?

University for tribal people of Orissa

1801. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that tribal students of Kotpada, Jaypore, Malkangiri, Govindapali, Koraput etc. of Orissa have demanded a university to promote higher education among the tribal community in the districts; and

(b) whether in view of genuine problems and difficulties faced by the tribal community as reported in the New Indian Express, Bhubaneswar of 30th December, 2002 any kind of help Centre propose to extend to the State of Orissa to meet this demand?

Kendriya Vidyalaya in Kerala

1802. SHRI N.K. PREMA-
CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOP-
MENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open new Kendriya Vidyalayas in various parts of the country on the basis of population;

(b) whether Government have identified any place in Kerala to start new Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(c) whether the Kollam in Kerala has been identified by the Chennai Region of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for the same;

(d) the extent of property required and whether Government is willing to meet the cost of property; and

(e) whether the State Government of Kerala has informed of the matter and whether the State Government or any Central Government departments came forward as sponsors to commence the Kendriya Vidyalayas?

Tri-language formula by CBSE and ICSE

†1803. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to national education research there is a need to start tri-language formula by CBSE and ICSE whereas no Indian language is being got studied by these two institutions;

(b) whether Government have decided to start tri-language course in CBSE and ICSE; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Sexual exploitation of women and children

†1804. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan to check the flesh trade and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) State-wise number of women and children provided justice under this plan?

Honorarium to Aanganwadi workers

1805. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aanganwadi workers, who are poor and sole-breadwinners for their families, are still being paid a pittance of Honorarium for work stretching full day;

(b) whether the State Governments despite Centre's suggestion are unable to pay additional remuneration to Aanganwadi workers for work rendered on State projects and programmes because of funds-crunch under the State plan allocations;

(c) whether the Centre has effected an increase in the honorarium of Aanganwadi workers; if so, to what extent and from what date; and

(d) whether arrears of enhanced entitlements have been disbursed with retrospective effect?

Prices of NCERT text books

†1806. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided

to reduce the prices of new text books of NCERT; and

(b) if so, names of the States in which prices of text books of NCERT are being reduced by Government?

Religious instructions in schools

1807. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give religious instructions in schools in the country; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in affirmative, the details thereof?

Cleanliness in South bound trains

1808. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that South bound long distance train coaches lack cleanliness, maintenance and upkeep causing avoidable inconvenience to the rail passengers of these trains;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or purpose to take to ensure cleanliness in South bound trains?

ROB/RUB in Gujarat

1809. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of over bridges/under bridges under construction in Gujarat;

(b) the details of the proposals sent by the Government of Gujarat for construction

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

of over bridges/under bridges at level crossing;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the funds allocated for construction of such bridges during the last three years?

Pantry car in long distance trains

1810. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of long distance trains with pantry car facility;

(b) the number of long distance trains without pantry car facility;

(c) whether Government intend to provide all such trains with pantry car facility; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Train accident near Kurnool in AP

1811. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received report of Hyderabad-Bangalore Express accident near R.S. Pendekallu village in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the inquiry report reveals that it was a case of sabotage;

(c) whether initially, the police have put it as a track fault;

(d) if so, to what extent, this inquiry has revealed the facts of the accident;

(e) the number of persons killed and injured in this accident;

(f) whether both Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka State Governments have

provided help and assistance to those who were killed and injured; and

(g) if so, details of compensation paid by both the State Governments to the victims?

Stoppage to Motihari Muzaffarpur Intercity Express

1812. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the local population are demanding the stoppage of Motihari-Muzaffarpur Intercity Express at Kanti Railway Station in Bihar; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be implemented and if not, the reasons therefor?

Purchase of substandard rail tracks

†1813. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item published at page 10 of the Rashtriya Sahara dated the 26th December, 2002 under the caption 'Aksar hydrogen ki adhik matra se tutati hain rail patriyan';

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railway Diploma Engineers' Association has also blamed for the purchase of low quality railway tracks;

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

(d) what steps Government are taking to ensure that high quality tracks are purchased in future?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Water/Telephone lines under rail tracks

† 1814. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals which are pending for laying telephone and water pipe lines under railway tracks in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) by when the sanction/approval would be granted to the same?

Track renewal

1815. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many kilometres of track renewal have been completed during the last five years, year-wise;

(b) back log of track renewal each year during above period; and

(c) by when the job would be completed?

Doordarshan and TV channels on trains

† 1816. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drafted any such scheme in which people travelling in train could be able to talk with their family through telephone and enjoy the programme of Doordarshan and television channels as well;

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

(c) the routes where this scheme is likely to be introduced at the outset?

Target for Bogibeel bridge construction

1817. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) progress made on acquisition of land towards construction of approach road for Bogibeel bridge construction, allocation and target set for implementation during 2003-04 including start of the actual construction;

(b) source of fund finalized towards construction of Bogibeel bridge; and

(c) the target set to complete the construction and making Rangia Division fully functional with projected development plan including those modernizations of Rangia Junction?

Loss to Jan Shatabdi trains

1818. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jan Shatabdi trains are running far below capacity and at a heavy losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the losses incurred by trains, train-wise on each trip;

(d) whether Government propose to cancel these trains; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken to cover up the losses and improve the services and capacity utilization in these trains?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Signalling system during fog

1819. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing railway signalling system has severe limitations during foggy weather; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction?

Derailment of Kamrup Express

1820. SHRI GHULAM NABI
AZAD:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the North-Eastern Sector, Kamrup Express got derailed twice during January last;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered into the accidents; and

(d) the preventive measures taken for the safety of passengers in future in this sector?

Bridge over Kosi river

1821. PROF. RAM DEO
BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to construct a bridge over river Kosi in connection with restoration of Nivmali-Surangarh line;

(b) if so, the effective steps taken by Government for the construction of this bridge which is a long pending issue; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be taken and amount involved in this project?

Gauge conversion under unigauge scheme

1822. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the zone-wise total length of the railway lines still to be converted into broad gauge under the Unigauge scheme, indicating zone-wise conversion so far made, under the scheme;

(b) the total estimated cost of the Unigauge conversion scheme, phase-wise, and the expenditure already incurred thereon; and the cost escalation already suffered under the scheme; and

(c) the details of conversion programme still to be implemented and the estimated cost thereof?

Projects under NRVY

1823. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 427 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st February, 2003 and to state:

(a) the details of the projects to be undertaken under National Rail Vikas Yojana with date of completion and the total cost involved;

(b) the targets set for the year 2003-04 and the amount of money allocated for the purpose; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that the work is carried out as per schedule?

Inspection of bridges

†1824. SHRIMATI CHANDRA
KALA PANDEY:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of bridges got inspected by Government during the last two years;
- (b) the details of the said bridges; and
- (c) whether there is any plan for inspecting all the bridges in near future?

Rail track on Amritsar-Lahore line

1825. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has uprooted railway track on Amritsar-Lahore line, snapping rail link with India; and
- (b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

Removal of touts operating at Reservation Centres

†1826. SHRIMATI CHANDRA
KALA PANDEY:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that all the seats are reserved at once at the time of opening of booking counters;
- (b) steps being taken by Government to remove the gang of touts which is very active in making reservations; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Rail traffic between Delhi-Bangalore

1827. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that the rail traffic between Delhi and Bangalore has increased considerably and always there is long waiting list; and
- (b) whether Government will consider introducing one more daily train from Bangalore to Delhi and Delhi to Bangalore?

Halt to Intercity at Talcher

1828. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a demand for providing a halt of Intercity Express at Talcher in Orissa is pending with the South East Railway;
- (b) whether a demonstration (Rasta Roko) was organized by the people for a halt at the above station; and
- (c) if so, the time by which this demand of the people will be met?

Bilaspur railway zone

†1829. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the amount released so far, after the declaration regarding creation of Bilaspur railway zone;
- (b) what is the total amount to be spent on the creation of the said zone; and
- (c) keeping in view the rate of release of amount for the said zone, by when the

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

work of Bilaspur railway zone is likely to be completed?

Doubling of Patna-Gaya rail line

1830. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have any plan for doubling of Patna-Gaya rail line; and

(b) if so, by when the same is likely to be completed?

Publication of Railway Time Table

1831. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the periodicity fixed for the publication of Railway Time Table;

(b) whether Railways propose to publish new Time Table in view of several changes in the present Time Table issued in July 2002; and

(c) if so, by when it will be published?

Wagon and BOLT Scheme in Railways

1832. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken fresh initiatives to make Wagon and BOLT Scheme more investor friendly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether performance of these schemes have been reviewed recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) details of investments made by the corporate/private sector/PSUs under the above scheme and expected investment likely to be made during the current year?

In human behaviour of RPF personnel

1833. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the new-sitem "RPF men push boy out of train" published in the Indian Express dated the 8th January, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken against the erring RPF personnel?

Purchase of diesel locomotives from General Motors

1834. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new diesel locomotives were purchased from General Motors of US alongwith technology transfer at a cost of Rs. 1100 crores for use on Pune-Guntakal-Renigunta route;

(b) whether after the purchase, the proposal for electrification of this route was considered against technical objections from the Railway Board;

(c) if so, the details of objections raised against electrification on this single-line route; and

(d) whether the diesel locos purchased from GM are presently used for Iron ore hauling from Hospet to Renigunta?

**Extension of platforms in
Karnataka**

1835. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken up extension of platforms at various railway stations in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the railway stations selected during 2002-03 in Karnataka for this purpose; and

(c) the amount proposed to be spent for this purpose during 2002-03 in Karnataka?

Target for Model Railway Station

1836. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 420, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 2002 and state:

(a) how a model railway station differs from an ordinary railway station; and

(b) the target set for setting up of model railway stations during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

Income of various divisions

1837. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of income earned through rail fares and freight charges by different divisions of railway zones, during the last three years;

(b) whether income of Western zone has declined; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

**Privatisation of ticket reservation
system**

1838. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMA-CHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are going to privatise ticket reservation system in the country;

(b) whether this will render railwaymen surplus; and

(c) what benefits would accrue to Railways from this new system?

**Direct train from Secunderabad to
Ajmer**

1839. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:
DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for a direct train from Secunderabad to Ajmer on broad gauge line for facilitating pilgrims; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to introduce a direct train under South Central Railway for this purpose?

**Investment by Bombardier
Transportation in Railways**

1840. SHRI MAJOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bombardier Transportation, the giant Canadian firm is preparing to make huge investments in railway components including mass transit, commuter electric trains (EMU) and rail control systems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the basis on which the firm has been selected for such huge investments without inviting any global tender therefor? journals and voluntary scientific organisations for grants?

State capitals in North East connected by Rail

1841. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of State capitals in North East connected and yet to be connected by Railways;

(b) whether the policy to connect State capitals by rail is progressing vigorously;

(c) if so, whether implementation of the policy is made time bound; and

(d) if the answer to above is affirmative, the details of the programmes?

Grants to voluntary scientific organisations

1842. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether grants are released to voluntary scientific organisations and societies functioning in India to encourage research in any fundamental Natural Science including Physics and applied physics and to encourage publication of scientific journals;

(b) if so, the details with addresses of such scientific journals and such voluntary scientific organisations;

(c) the details of funds released for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 for publication of scientific journals, journal-wise; and

(d) the details of guidelines, rules and regulations to be followed by such scientific

Research on herbs as pesticides

†1843. SHRI B. P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any work has been undertaken in a planned manner to see the use of the herbs found in various forests of India as pesticides;

(b) if so, the outcomes thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there is any plan in this regard?

CSE report on bottled water

1844. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Science and Technology Minister has written to the Prime Minister that his department had found 'considerable merit' in the Centre for Science and Environment report on bottled water sold in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the suggestions made in this regard;

(c) what are the directions issued by the Prime Minister; and

(d) to what extent they have been implemented?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Pesticides in bottled water

1845. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a study report by a reputed NGO has found unacceptable levels of pesticides in bottled water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have examined the report;

(d) if so, the result arising thereof and the response thereon;

(e) whether Government have written to the Prime Minister confirming the findings of the NGO and seeking his urgent intervention; and

(f) if so, the response thereon?

Assistance to Assam science society

1846. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to help science societies/organisations of our country;

(b) if so, what are those provisions; and

(c) whether Assam science society has ever been helped; if so, the details thereof?

Worth of SAIL

1847. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that net worth of SAIL at present is about Rs. 2252 crores against Rs. 8000 crore in 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons for the fall in net worth; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the

net worth of SAIL?

Growth of steel industry

1848. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth of the steel industry has been slower than expected;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how Government propose to improve its growth?

Mining by KIOCL

1849. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total investment made on Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited, Kudremukh, Karnataka, (KIOCL), the company's production, exports and the profit earned with Foreign Exchange components, during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has ordered that mining should be carried out in Kudremukh by KIOCL only up to the end of 2005;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in order to utilise the existing infrastructure, KIOCL has proposed alternative mining site in Karnataka; and

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

**Accredited DOPE testing
laboratory**

1850. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no DOPE testing laboratory in India meeting international standard and/or recognised by International Olympic Association;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps contemplated, if any, for elimination of inadequacy in such an important infrastructure in the sports sector; and

(d) whether Government have been seeking co-operation of the autonomous sports bodies in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the response of those bodies?

**Pathetic conditions of former sports
persons**

1851. SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN:
SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of sportspersons, who once earned laurels to the country in International sports events are now languishing in penury;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified such sportspersons;

(c) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to ameliorate their economic conditions by instituting pension or extending some grants to them?

NEW DELHI;
The 28th February, 2003
Phalguna 9, 1924 (Saka)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

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