

RAJYA SABHA

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

*to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Wednesday, the December 7, 2005/Agrahayana 16, 1927 (Saka)*

**(Ministries: Commerce and Industry; Defence; Home Affairs; Non-
Conventional Energy Sources; Power; Rural Development; Textiles)**

Total number of questions —137

Effect of India-Sri Lanka FTA on farmers

1510. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports between Sri
Lanka and India, after the Free Trade
Agreement (FTA), had grown
considerably;

(b) if so, the details of spices and copra
trade between both the countries after the
FTA, year-wise and category-wise as on
date;

(c) the details of steps taken to protect
the farmers of spices and copra from price
fall after FTA year-wise and category-wise;
and

(d) the steps taken including conditions
specified to protect the farmers from further
price fall, if any, while implementing,
FTA like South Asian Free Trade
Agreement (SAFTA)?

Indo-Russia bilateral trade and investment

1511. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and Russian
businessmen enterprises are all set to
develop a new partnership to increase
bilateral trade and investment;

(b) whether according to figures the level
of trade is still far below the potential and
is limited to traditional items;

(c) whether exports from India to Russia
have been exhibiting a downward trend;

(d) if so, what is the outcome of the
summit held between Indian and Russian
trade;

(e) whether any agreement has been
reached; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Export of iron ore

†1512. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of iron ore exported out of total production during the last three years and thereafter and the amount of foreign exchange earned from it country-wise;

(b) whether domestic demand for iron ore has increased and Government are unable to meet the domestic demand;

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

(d) whether Government propose to impose a ban on the export of iron ore; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the impact it will cast on domestic iron industry?

Capital investment in paper industry

1513. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a massive capital investment will be required for paper industry in the next few years for its 7.1% growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any technology upgradation fund similar to textiles is proposed to be provided for paper industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Steps to improve tobacco exports

1514. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not taken adequate steps to improve tobacco exports;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government is not making Virginia tobacco grown in Andhra Pradesh competitive for international export markets;

(c) what are the steps proposed by Government to increase the export potential of tobacco from the country; and

(d) the specific plans for the rest of this fiscal year?

Pre-Hong Kong consultations

1515. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government, in association with some international organisations has held pre-Hong Kong Ministerial consultations with the stakeholders;

(b) if so, the details of events and that of participants thereof;

(c) whether Government has identified some issues which emerged out of these consultations; and

(d) what is the response of Government to the issues raised by the stakeholders in these consultations?

Request of Vanaspathi industry

1516. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vanaspathi industry has requested that import duty free Vanaspathi from Sri Lanka should be allowed only through State Trading Corporation/NAFED; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Problems impeding growth of manufacturing sector

1517. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council unveiled a draft strategy to achieve a manufacturing sector growth of 12% so as to sustain higher GDP growth rate;

(b) whether the Council has identified the problems impeding the growth of the manufacturing sector; and

(c) if so, the details of the areas that have been identified for immediate corrective action?

Granite exports to China

1518. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether granite exports are gradually increasing from Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh to China to construct the stadiums, sporting complexes, the Olympic Village and other commercial purposes for the Beijing Olympics in 2008;

(b) if so, the details of the exports so far;

(c) the income earned from these exports so far; and

(d) the likely income to be generated in future?

Price subsidy scheme for small tea growers

1519. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced

a price subsidy scheme for small tea growers for a period of four months;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the number of persons benefited and the amount given as subsidy;

(c) whether Government has announced a separate package for the tea gardens of northern West Bengal; and

(d) whether desired result has been achieved after implementing the price subsidy scheme?

Export of agricultural produce

1520. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural produces exported during the last three years; State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the requirement of phyto-sanitary certificates has been posing problems in exporting agricultural produces to certain countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to remove the hardships of exporters due to phyto-sanitary certificates?

Specialised Entrepreneur Centres

1521. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering proposals to set up Specialised Entrepreneur Centres in various parts of the country;

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

(c) what is going to be the mandate of these Centres?

Board of Approvals for various schemes/projects in SEZs

1522. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up a Board of Approvals to administer various schemes and projects in the SEZs all over the country;

(b) if so, when was the Board of Approvals constituted;

(c) what steps will the Board take to ensure that fake units are immediately detected and terminated;

(d) what are the other measures proposed by Government to detect units misusing the benefits conferred in Special Economic Zones; and

(e) the details of such preventive and punitive steps being taken by Government?

Fall in price of spices

1523. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there have been a fall in the price of spices including Cardamom and Vanilla;

(b) if so, the details of the prices of spices during the last three years, year-wise and produce-wise;

(c) whether Government have since ascertained the reasons for the continuous fall in the prices of spices;

(d) whether Government will take steps to procure the produces with a minimum support price; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Performance on export front

1524. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how Government is planning to achieve the export target of US \$ 100 billion in 2005-06 with deceleration of export in electronics, leather and textiles front;

(b) how the decline of rupee value against the US dollar affected the export of Indian goods; and

(c) the reasons for which the export of gems and jewellery are not performing according to the expectations?

Concessions sought by coffee growers of Karnataka

1525. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coffee growers in Karnataka have submitted a Memorandum seeking certain concessions and relief;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

Views of intellectuals on India's strategy in W.T.O.

1526. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the feeling amongst intellectuals is that "The solidarity of the South, and not expedient issue-based coalitions with USA/EU, must be the bedrock of our strategy in WTO"; and

(b) how far we have been able to move towards its fulfilment and what steps Ministry of Commerce have taken in this regard?

Problems faced by fireworks industry

1527. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the problem facing fireworks industrialists due to complexities in the present rules for exporting fireworks production to other countries; and

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

Increase in exports from SEZs

1528. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports from SEZ have gone up to \$ 4.07 billion in 2004-05 from \$2.7 billion in 2003-04;

(b) the number of SEZs functioning in 2003-04, 2004-05 and at present and factors conducive for more exports by SEZs;

(c) whether Government proposes to open up more SEZs; and

(d) if so, the details of new SEZs proposed to be opened in 2005-06 and 2006-07 and target of exports fixed for these years?

Discussions with farmers organizations on farm policies at WTO

1529. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held discussion with various farmers organizations as preparation for

forthcoming talks on WTO matters related to farm policies;

(b) if so, the details of farmers organizations with which discussions were held;

(c) when were these discussions held by Government; and

(d) the details thereof, giving names and dates and topic of discussions on matters related to WTO?

Border trade through Nathu La

1530. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nathu La route has been opened for border trade between India and China from September, 2005;

(b) if so, how far the timing to open this route is justified when the snow is expected to fall from November, 2005; and

(c) whether the Ministry has foreseen this eventuality?

India's trade with neighbouring countries

1531. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's trade with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand has risen to reach over \$ 6.6 billion during 2004-05;

(b) the details of both imports into and exports from our country to the above countries; and

(c) the action plan to further boost exports from India to these countries?

Steps to help tobacco growers in sale of their produce

1532. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have been requesting the Union Government for the last three years to permit the Tobacco Board to intervene into market to help tobacco growers in sale of their produce, as State Trading Corporation of India Limited which used to intervene on a commercial basis has been disinvested; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken by the Government to help tobacco growers in marketing of tobacco through Tobacco Board to create buoyancy in the market in view of the decreasing demand for tobacco in recent years?

Setting up of tobacco units in SEZ areas

1533. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals for setting up of Tobacco units in SEZ areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of Indian and Foreign companies which have submitted the proposals for such units?

Steps to improve PSUs

†1534. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA
CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to improve the loss making Public Sector

Undertakings by investing the sum realized from the sale of unused land thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the policy of Government with regard to the sale of unused land and the expected income likely to accrue by sale of such land, industry-wise;

(d) whether Government have formulated any policy to improve the condition of Public Sector Undertakings with the sum so realized, and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, by when the said policy is likely to be formulated?

Overutilisation of Samrat warship

1535. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after converting the warship "Vikrant" as a museum, there is only one warship "Samrat" in India;

(b) if so, the reasons for keeping the warship Samrat under heavy pressure;

(c) whether Government are considering actively to build another such warship for the protection of both the coasts of the country; and

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

Missing laptop

1536. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an official laptop containing some vital and strategic information including about war games has gone missing at Bhatinda in September, 2005; and

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

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Demilitarization drives

1537. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the current status and the details of demilitarization drive by Indian and Pakistani forces at Siachen glacier;

(b) whether any other similar demilitarization drives are being planned by Government for other inhospitable Himalayan regions sharing borders with China, Tibet and Nepal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Joint exercises by Army

1538. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that army has prepared a comprehensive plan of joint exercises with some of the leading armies of the world as a part of its strategy to use such interactions as a diplomatic tool for pursuing national security strategies;

(b) if so, the details of the major plans that the Ministry have;

(c) whether any low level exercises are also proposed with some countries; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that some of the constituents of the UPA are opposing this move?

Encroachment of runway in Chatarpur district, M.P.

†1539. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Chatarpur district of

M.P. the Nogaon Army Training Centre has got its old runway;

(b) whether this runway situated on N.H. 75 is lying as a wasteland;

(c) if so, whether the encroachers have occupied this land;

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to construct a boundary wall around it after developing the same; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Indo-UK strategic dialogue on defence

1540. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and U.K. held first-ever strategic dialogue on defence to improve ties between two countries;

(b) whether UK Defence Secretary's during his visit in September-October, 2005 discussed whole gamut of issues;

(c) if so, whether UK Defence Secretary had number of meetings with various leaders including PM of India;

(d) if so, what main points were discussed and to what extent both India and UK have agreed to improve defence ties;

(e) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(f) if so, the details of same and to what extent it will be helpful for defence needs of India?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Steps to increase sea-lift capabilities of the Navy

1541. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Navy is taking to increase Sea-lift capabilities after the recent Tsunami;

(b) whether the Navy felt, at any time, to acquire landing platform docks or large amphibious vessels to ensure that relief material is reached to the disaster-affected areas quickly; and

(c) if so, steps taken by the Navy to acquire such vessels?

Arms deals with US and Russia

1542. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA
RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI
REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had arms deals with US and Russia;

(b) if so, whether delegations from US and Russia visited India in the month of September-October, 2005 and had discussions to set up units to solve repairs issues for weapon systems for Russia;

(c) if so, whether US high power delegation visited India and had assured to come back again with clarifications sought by the end users;

(d) if so, what is the outcome of the talk held and to what extent clarifications have been sought; and

(e) what are the agreements reached with the US delegations?

Sale of 30 ALH to Chile

1543. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is selling its indigenous built 30 Advance Light Helicopters (Dhruv) to Chile;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that it is the first and the single largest sale by the Indian Defence Establishment; and

(c) who were the other contenders for this deal?

Special Cell for securing release of POWs

1544. SHRIMATI JAYA
BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that family members of 54 soldiers believed to be in Pakistan jails since the 1965 and 1971 wars have demanded that Government set up a special cell to work on bringing them back; and

(b) the action Government have taken in the matter?

Defence production units

1545. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up defence production units in the country particularly in Jammu and Kashmir;

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

(c) the time by when those units are likely to be set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Recruitment rules in MES

1546. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for regulating methods of recruitment to various civilian posts, recruitment rules are required to be framed/followed;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that recruitment rules to various posts have either not been framed at all or have not been reviewed periodically in the MES;

(c) if so, the details of recruitment rules which are awaiting framing/review for incorporating recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by Government to update/frame such rules within a time bound limit?

Decline in Sikh personnel joining the armed forces

1547. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there has been a steep decline of personnel belonging to Sikh community in all the three wings of armed forces;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

Joint defence exercises

1548. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning any more two-nation joint defence exercises

with other countries, similar to the recently concluded exercise with the US Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such peacetime exercises are precursors to wartime joint operations by India with any of the countries it holds joint defence exercises with; and

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

Acquisition of submarine vessels from France

1549. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has entered into a contract with France to acquire sophisticated submarine vessels;

(b) if so, the details of the contract and rights of India to use French technologies for indigenous manufacture of its own submarines based on French technologies; and

(c) what is the world ranking of French submarine proposed to be acquired?

Expenditure incurred on Indo-Sri Lanka joint patrolling

1550. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 114 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th November, 2005 and state:

(a) the expenditure on Indo-Sri Lanka joint patrolling;

(b) whether Government had taken precautions to avoid harassing fishermen during the patrolling; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Release of cash and rice for the flood-ravaged areas of Andhra Pradesh

1551. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh requested Union Government to release Rs. 2479 crores and 12.74 lakh tonnes of rice as immediate relief measures for the flood-ravaged areas of Andhra Pradesh on 27th September, 2005;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that even after a lapse of more than one month neither a single Rupee nor grain had been released;

(c) whether Government would assure of releasing immediately cash and rice as sought by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, in view of the fact that more than 100 people died with heavy loss of properties; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Repeal of Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958

1552. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in the process of seriously considering Justice Jeewan Reddy Committee recommendations to repeal the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, now in force in North Eastern States;

(b) whether to fill in the vacuum in the wake of repeal of AFSPA, Government propose to amend the Unlawful Activities Act, to provide immunity to security personnel engaged in counter-insurgency operations in NE; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Domestic Violence Bill

1553. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Domestic Violence Bill will be adequate to protect our women due to the way in which Indian Criminal Justice system works;

(b) whether Government are considering to simplify the Criminal Procedure Code with a view to making it time and cost-effective especially while dispensing justice to vulnerable sections like women, children, etc.; and

(c) how many amendments have so far been made to the Indian Penal Code?

Terrorist violence

1554. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any action plan to tackle terrorist violence in States;

(b) if so, the details of terrorist outfits in sleeper cells, nodules and active in States, number of terrorist attacks, foiled attacks, people, security persons died and wounded for last three years, year-wise, State-wise, and category-wise; and

(c) the details of States which are 'soft' for terrorist attack and border States which are facing a potential threat of terrorism and also the details of projects and financial assistance sought and sanctioned to these States against terrorism, for the last three years, State-wise, year-wise and category-wise?

**Relief to victims of rains in
Karnataka**

1555. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sought to provide relief to victims of large scale destruction caused by rain in Bangalore, Mysore, Mandya and Hassan districts during the last two months;

(b) whether an all party delegation met the hon'ble Prime Minister of India in this regard;

(c) the amount so far released by Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to release the remaining amount?

Naxalism in States

†1556. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the situation in more than 100 naxalism affected districts of 11 States of the country, is very explosive;

(b) if so, the total number of persons killed in naxalite violence during the last six months with the number of security personnel and naxalites killed separately as well as naxalites arrested therein;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to lack of having sophisticated weapons, the police forces are unable to take on them;

(d) whether Government are working on any plan to exterminate the naxalites; and

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

Inter-linking of police stations

†1557. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during last 2-3 years, there has been a sudden spurt in different types of crimes in the country and the police have been relatively less successful in nabbing the criminals;

(b) if so, whether Government are formulating any plan to link the police stations with one-another for the exchange of information regarding crimes in various regions of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the police stations across the country will be inter-linked?

**Installation of secret cameras in
markets of Delhi**

†1558. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a suggestion for installation of secret cameras in the over-crowded markets of Delhi has been received by Government in order to prevent the terrorists activities;

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

(c) by when Government would take a final decision in this regard; and

(d) the total amount of expenditure likely to be involved in the work of installation of secret cameras?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Fresh targets of naxal groups

1559. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that naxal groups have identified 31 new districts in the States of Jharkhand, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh as their fresh targets?

Specialized institutes for disaster management

1560. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from States for setting up specialized institutes for disaster management;

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

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government;

(d) whether any proposal is under consideration to set up such an institute in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Bogus freedom fighters

1561. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of freedom fighters found bogus during investigation by Government, State-wise;

(b) whether any recovery has been made from those bogus freedom fighters; and

(c) the State-wise detail of the investigations regarding bogus freedom fighters in progress in various States?

Appointing trained CISF constables against technical posts

†1562. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CISF constables who undergo technical training are not appointed against technical post even after such a training;

(b) what are the reasons therefor and whether the money spent on the training of the constables by Government is not put to any use because of the existing system; and

(c) what action Government are taking to ensure that constables are deputed on jobs befitting their additional technical qualifications so acquired following the training in the trades?

Relief package for Maharashtra

1563. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central team sent to review the flood situation in Maharashtra has recommended a relief package of Rs. 1209 crores; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Central Government?

Accommodation to police personnel

1564. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have fixed any norms for providing residential accommodation (barrack as well as house) to various ranks of police personnel throughout the country; if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) the basis on which the norms are fixed, what is the present status of accommodation, rank-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan to provide accommodation to all the police personnel, according to norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and by when all personnel would be provided with accommodation?

Tracking of naxalites by use of satellites

1565. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to track naxalites and their camps in remote jungles with the Satellites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some naxalite groups are helped by Government officials; and

(d) if so, what are the steps taken to control it?

Demand for separate Cooch Behar State

1566. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the northern part of West Bengal, especially in Cooch Behar, some people in the name of Greater Cooch Behar People's Association are demanding a separate "Greater Cooch Behar" State;

(b) whether they have submitted any demand in this regard to the Union Government;

(c) if so, what are their main demands and arguments; and

(d) what is the Centre's response to the demand?

Human Rights situation in States

1567. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that human rights situation continues to be grim;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the record of most States on this count is very poor;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last one year;

(e) whether it is also a fact that the police atrocities and custodial torture have not ebbed; slum-dwellers are kicked out of their hutments and tribal people are displaced;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps to be taken by Government to improve the situation in coordination with the State Governments especially in Andhra Pradesh?

Replacement of word 'rape' with 'sexual assault'

1568. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Women has recommended for replacing the word "Rape" with "Sexual Assault" in all Acts since word "rape" is derogatory to women;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Police Chiefs of the States and Home Ministry have endorsed this recommendation of NCW;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some sections of the society are demanding for dropping Section 377 of IPC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what the Ministry has done in this regard?

Al-Qaida militants in India

†1569. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Al-Qaida has spread its footing in India also and has been carrying out terrorist activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Al-Qaida militants caught during the last five years and places known to the Government having Al-Qaida network?

Atrocities on Dalit women

1570. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the different types of atrocities committed against dalit women during the year 2003, 2004 and 2005 and the extent of the atrocities, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to prevent such atrocities?

Foreigners staying illegally in India

1571. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreigners who disappeared after the expiry of their Visas to stay in India, during the last three years;

(b) what measures were taken to track them; and

(c) how many of such foreigners were traced and deported by Government during the said period?

Terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir and North-East

1572. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a perceptible decline in terrorist activities and infiltration in the country particularly in Jammu and Kashmir and the North East;

(b) if so, the details of such terrorist activities and infiltration took place during the last two months;

(c) the action taken by Government so far towards the incidents; and

(d) the steps taken/to be taken by Government, in future, to prevent such activities?

Assistance to earthquake victims of Gujarat and Uttaranchal

1573. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the victims of the earthquake in Uttaranchal and Gujarat States are still suffering for want of financial and other assistance by Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to provide necessary help for their livelihood and life; and

(c) by when the full and final assistance is expected to be provided?

New law to tackle terrorism

1574. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outgoing Chief Justice of India, Shri R.C. Lahoti has suggested a new law to tackle terrorism;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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

Check on inter-State migration

1575. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the census figures recently released by the Registrar General of India reveals that 30 per cent of the country's population is migrant by place of birth or those enumerated at a place other than that;
- (b) whether with such a large number of migrant population scattered almost everywhere in the country, the task of law enforcement becomes difficult with scope for hit-and-run crimes enhanced; and
- (c) whether such large scale migration within the country creates regional imbalances and whether Government have any plans to check this large scale inter-State migration?

Regulation of entry of Nepalese people into India

1576. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to regulate entry of Nepalese people into India along the 1751 km. long border;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) how far will this regulatory system help to control suspected Maoists and other extremists' entry from across the borders?

Release of Dukhtaran-e-Millat activists

1577. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HOME

AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir ordered the release of 44 detainees including 7 Dukhtaran-e-Millat activists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what are the reasons for releasing such dangerous militants; and
- (d) whether Government are aware of this and justification for it?

Security of tribals of Chhattisgarh

1578. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that more than 500 tribals have recently taken shelter to escape the wrath of Maoists at Chhattisgarh Government-run relief camps in Krishi Upaj Mandi near Dantewara Distt. near Raipur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government have taken any steps for the security of tribals and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Modern technologies to fight naxalism

1579. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that certain States have emphasized upon the Centre to upgrade anti-naxal machinery to tackle Maoists armed with the latest technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government propose to change the techniques to tackle this issue to control loss of lives in the States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Changes in functioning of Delhi Police

1580. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to make significant changes in Delhi Police Force regarding procuring State-of-the-art equipment, carving out new police districts, shifting of Police Headquarters, strengthening of intelligence network, etc.;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made to increase the rate of conviction which is presently comparatively low;

(c) whether present system of investigation is time and cost-effective; and

(d) whether the investigating officers are being given refresher courses to update their knowledge, skill, aptitude etc?

Special cells to deal with terrorism in States

†1581. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI VARINDER SINGH
BAJWA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have special cells to deal with terrorist activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Central Government propose to issue uniform directions in respect of setting up such special cells; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Infiltration of Nepali Maoists

1582. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been a sharp increase in the infiltration of Nepali Maoists into India during the last four months;

(b) if so, the approximate number of such persons entered our territory; and

(c) what action Government have taken to check the infiltration from Nepal and with what result?

Foreign prisoners in Indian jails

1583. SHRIMATI MOHSINA
KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign prisoners are in Indian Jails as on 1st June 2005;

(b) how many of them have already completed their sentences; and

(c) whether there are any prisoners still in jail although they completed full term of their imprisonment?

Criminals fled from the country

1584. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons who are accused in different criminal acts of the underworld

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

have fled the country by tinkering with their passports and by manipulating the process of verification at different airports;

(b) whether Government initiated any inquiry to find out the close nexus between certain officials of RPOs and local police and the action taken against the erring officials; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Financial assistance for providing electricity in remote villages of Orissa

1585. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CM of Orissa has met the Union Minister of State for Non-Conventional Energy Sources and requested for financial support to provide electricity in remote villages that cannot be served by conventional grid;

(b) whether around 6500 villages in the State fall into this category; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to help the State to light up these villages?

Setting up Mega Thermal Power stations in coastline or at pithead sites

1586. SHRI C. PERUMAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up Mega Thermal Power Stations, either along the coastline or at pithead sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof and their locations;

(c) how much money would be involved

and how the same is likely to be generated;

(d) whether any such station is likely to be set up in Tamil Nadu considering its long coastlines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Concessions given to Independent Power Producers

1587. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the achievement of power generations targets set out by the Tenth Plan is lagging behind;

(b) if so, the reasons for this lagging and the steps initiated by Government to overcome this; and

(c) what is the amount of concessions given to the independent power producers in the last years?

Violating conditions laid down for licence by inter-State power trading companies

†1588. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some inter-State power trading companies have been found guilty of violating conditions laid down for licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government are considering to cancel the licences of the said companies;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of these companies have been found guilty of recovering excess trading margin;

(d) whether it is also a fact that besides the licence holder companies, some

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

other companies are also trading power; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and details of action being taken against them?

Environmental clearance for power project in M.P.

†1589. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for 1000 MW Thermal Power Station Project referred to Government by the Government of Madhya Pradesh has been cleared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(b) if not, by when the said project would be cleared;

(c) whether the coal linkage proposal for the said project has also been cleared; and

(d) if not, by when the said proposal would be cleared?

Restarting of DPC

1590. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central State Panel constituted to thrash out details for restarting the Dabhol plant has worked out details for operation of the Power Project and submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

Gap between demand and supply of power

†1591. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether gap between demand and supply of power still exists in various States;

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

(c) the steps taken by Government to remove this gap; and

(d) extent of improvement in shortage of power after taking such steps?

Acute shortage of power in Maharashtra

1592. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra is facing acute power shortage since the last five and half years;

(b) what steps have been taken to bridge the gap between actual demand and supply;

(c) the details of production and demand during the last five and half years from 1st April, 2001 to 30th September, 2005;

(d) whether the Dabhol Power Project of 2184 MW is being revived;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of new Power Projects cleared by Government in Maharashtra during last five and half years?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Mega power projects

1593. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY
SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA
RAO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of developing 4 ultra mega power projects of 5,000 MW;

(b) if so, whether they will be based on coal or hydro power;

(c) what is the estimated cost of the projects and how the Ministry is thinking of pooling the resources for these projects;

(d) whether the Ministry is involving the Central Electricity Authority and other agencies concerned in selecting the sites for these mega projects across the country;

(e) whether any site has been identified in Andhra Pradesh;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Reforms in power sector

†1594. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR
PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that speedy power development and improvement programme was launched by Government to introduce reforms in the power sector during last few years;

(b) if so, when was it initiated and the amount incurred by March, 2005 under this programme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that desired benefit has not been achieved under the above said programme; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and the future plan regarding the operation of said programme?

National Transmission Plan

1595. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Electricity Authority has formulated National Transmission Plan with an objective to achieve an inter-regional transmission capacity of 16450 MW by the end of Tenth Plan and about 37150 MW by the end of Eleventh Plan; and

(b) whether draft NTP has been prepared covering various transmission plans in 2011-12 which are on the update generation programmes?

Setting up power projects in foreign countries by public sector companies

†1596. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER
SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power companies under public sector are making efforts to set up power generation projects in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the countries in whose favour a decision regarding setting up of power projects has been taken so far;

(c) whether arrangement for transmission is also being made in order to

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

bring power generated from these projects in the country; and

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

Rural electrification programme to the Central Government agencies by Orissa

1597. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa has handed over the rural electrification programme to the three Central Government agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of total outlay involved in the project and whether the project would be funded by the Centre in its entirety; and

(d) time-frame within which all the house-holds in the State would be lighted up?

Dabhol Power Project

1598. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS
BAL APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the agreement signed for settlement of the claim of General Electric Co. (GE) of the U.S. in respect of the Dabhol Power Corporation, a Committee has been set up to carry out the talks with G.E. to protect the interests of the Government of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the terms and composition of the Committee; and

(c) what recommendations, if any, have been made by the Committee?

Need to accelerate reform process in power sector

1599. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the growth in power sector is not upto the mark;

(b) whether it is a fact that although the Electricity Act, 2003 is in place, the ongoing reform process has been slowed down mainly due to increase in losses incurred by the State Electricity Boards and lack of timely initiatives by the State Governments; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to accelerate the reform process?

Power projects in Uttaranchal

1600. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many power projects have been sanctioned for Uttaranchal;

(b) how much funds have been proposed for the same and the details of funds spent on each power project;

(c) what is the present status of these projects; and

(d) how many people of Uttaranchal State have been employed by these projects?

Shortage of coal in thermal power plants

1601. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are grave shortage of coal and many thermal power plants are facing acute shortage of coal in the country since last three months;

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

(c) the details of measures taken or proposed to be taken for providing required coal to the power plants?

Setting up a coal based power station at Mauda, Nagpur

1602. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation had proposed the setting up a 1000MW coal based power station at Mauda, Nagpur;

(b) whether despite repeated requests from Government of Maharashtra and directions by Government, NTPC has failed to prepare and submit a feasibility report since 2003;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in preparation of a feasibility report; and

(d) the steps being taken to expedite the project?

Measures to enable consumers to choose power suppliers of their choice

1603. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up task force to work out ways and means of allowing consumers to choose power suppliers of their choice and tapping the surplus power generating capacity of the captive power plants to meet the shortfalls; and

(b) if so, what are the details with the time-schedule for submission of reports by the task forces and implementation of their recommendations?

Satluj Hydro Power Nigam Limited

†1604. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Nathpa-Jhakri Hydel Power Project has been set up by Satluj Hydro Power Nigam Limited in the State of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of total construction cost and capacity of this project; and

(c) by when the said project has started production of electricity and the total income earned thereby?

Foreign Assistance for development of power sector

†1605. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign assistance for development of Power sector is not being properly utilized;

(b) if so, the assistance and loan received from foreign countries during the last three years and amount utilized out of the said amount; and

(c) the details of action being taken by Government for appropriate utilization of the amount received for the said purpose?

Restructuring the Accelerated power Development and Reform Programme

1606. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to restructure the 'Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme'; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Gas based Power Plants

1607. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Power Ministry has decided not to pursue New Gas Power Projects in view of degree of instability on the issues regarding gas supply and price etc.;

(b) when the Gas availability is likely to become normal;

(c) whether the existing LNG Power Plants are under utilized to the extent of 40 per cent; and

(d) if so, when the full installed capacity will be utilized?

Financial Assistance by PFC to Southern States

1608. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has planned to extend financial assistance of about Rs.2,000/- crore to the Southern States this year for various development schemes in the power sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly relating to Andhra Pradesh?

Power generation plants stuck due to fuel scarcity

1609. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different plants for generation of about 7000MW power are stuck due to fuel scarcity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Electricity Authority has been asked to switch over to thermal power generation; and

(d) which are the proposed site for thermal power generation and how much time it will take?

Providing free cost of electricity to sections of the community

1610. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the States where the electricity continues to be provided free of cost to sections of the community;

(b) what is the total drain out of expenditure on this head, giving details State-wise;

(c) whether Government have given advice to these States for refraining from such a course; and

(d) the reasons that this benefit is not given to all consumers alike instead of choosing groups or sections of community which are considered vote banks by the political party in power in a State?

Contentious issues between Orissa and NTPC

1611. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC has moved the Centre against the policy of the State Government of Orissa seeking a contribution of Rs.4 crore for 100 MW generation per annum by PSU and independent power producers; and

(b) what are the contentious issues between the two and how far have these been resolved?

Violation of guidelines for construction under IAY

1612. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some States neglected the guidelines of Indira Awas Yojana for ensuring houses for the widows and handicapped persons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

Allocation of funds for sponsored schemes

1613. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT:
Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State-wise allocation of funds for Centrally-sponsored schemes are decided on the basis State-wise poverty estimates;

(b) if so, which poverty estimates are used to decide upon such fund allocation; and

(c) whether Government intend to undertake fresh poverty estimates in view of the problems associated with the BPL census conducted in 1997 and 2002?

Debarring from contesting elections to Panchayati Raj bodies

1614. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a

decision to debar those not having a toilet in their houses from fighting elections to Panchayati Raj bodies;

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

(c) the percentage of households in the rural areas which are still devoid of toilet facilities in Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and the country as a whole?

Central assistance for computerization of land records in Orissa

1615. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa Government has undertaken computerization of land records with 100 per cent Central assistance;

(b) whether the amount so granted by the Centre has been utilized and UCs furnished to the Centre by the State Government;

(c) whether the State Government has now made a request for release of balance amount; and

(d) if so, the status thereof and the time-frame within which it would be released, if not already done?

Funds allocated to Bihar under PMGSY

†1616. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allocated to Bihar under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana during the current year; and

(b) the roads constructed under the said scheme during the current year alongwith the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Improvement in rural infrastructure and roads

†1617. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of plans formulated by Government for extensive improvement in the rural infrastructures alongwith roads in the villages of the country;

(b) whether in implementation of these plans priority will be given to those States which are lagging behind;

(c) if so, the names of such States which will be given priority; and

(d) whether among these States also more priority will be given to such areas which are quite backward?

Proposals from the voluntary organizations by CAPART

†1618. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of voluntary organizations which have submitted their proposals in regional offices and Delhi headquarter of Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) during last three years, year-wise;

(b) the action taken on the above proposals and the criteria for accepting and rejecting the proposals; and

(c) the number of organizations about which complaint of corruption has been received by Government?

National Consultation on empowering livelihood for BPL people

1619. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RURAL

DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a 3-day national consultation on empowering livelihood was held to discuss the concerns relating to rural economy and development with a focus on over 300 million people living below poverty line in the country;

(b) whether the Poorest Areas Civil Society Programme is being implemented in six States with the help of British Government;

(c) what is the criteria adopted in selecting the States; and

(d) what are the reasons for including the State of Andhra Pradesh from the above programme?

New projects under IWDP in Rajasthan

1620. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan Government has sought sanction for 30 watershed programmes running under IWDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

Providing cemented and clean toilets

†1621. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are committed to provide cemented and clean toilets in each village of the country;

(b) if so, the number of villages in the country wherein cemented and clean toilets have been constructed with the help of State Governments and local gram panchayats;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the number of such villages where cemented toilets have not been constructed so far; and

(d) the extent of budget fixed per toilet and the amount to be borne by Union and State Governments?

Complying with the official rules in the offices of CAPART

†1622. DR. CHHATRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the time bound action taken on the proposals received from the voluntary organisations in the Regional Offices of CAPART and Headquarters located in Delhi;

(b) the rules framed by Government in this regard;

(c) the reasons for not complying with the official rules in the Regional Offices, of CAPART at Lucknow, U.P.; and

(d) the reasons for not taking any action by the Regional Office of CAPART at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and Headquarter of the CAPART on the proposals received from the voluntary organisations from the district Bulandshahr?

Providing pure drinking water

1623. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite more than Rs.40 thousand crores spent by the Centre for providing pure drinking water to the rural masses in the country so far, the problem of pure drinking water persists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there are 2 lakh contaminated water sources in the

country and 14 thousand resources are still lying neglected;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether matter has been enquired into to fix responsibility in this regard; and

(f) the measures taken by Government to ensure supply of pure drinking water to people?

Food for Work Programme

1624. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budget released so far for the year 2004-05, under a new "Food for Work Programme" in 150 districts, district-wise, which districts, as per the last years budget proposals, are being classified as most backward and identified as areas in immediate need of such a programme; and

(b) the details of number of beneficiaries under this Programme for the year 2004-05, district-wise, with regards to all the classified 150 districts and the number of man-days of the beneficiaries for which the "Food for Work Programme" has covered, district-wise for 2004-05?

Development of waste and drought affected land

1625. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate a comprehensive action plan for development of waste land, drought affected land by producing agro-crop in the country with the help of National Employment Guarantee Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Construction of roads in Uttaranchal under PMGSY

1626. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of roads in rural, hilly and far-flung areas in Uttaranchal being constructed, district-wise and Panchayat-wise, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, road-wise; and

(b) the total funds allotted and utilised for the construction of these roads during the last three years in the State of Uttaranchal?

Implementation of NREGS

†1627. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to implement the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in an effective manner;

(b) whether assistance would also be sought from Non-Governmental Organizations for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Non-performance of States on drinking water supply

1628. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-performance of some States on drinking water supply for specific habitations, Government propose to extend the deadline earlier set for 2009 for total implementation of Safe Drinking Water Mission under Bharat Nirman Yojana;

(b) whether State authorities and implementing agencies have been found

lacking in site selection as well as providing for proper water harvesting mechanisms for recharge of sources; and

(c) despite Government hiking the budget allocation to the ARWASP to Rs.4050 crores whether the states are citing fund scarcity as reasons for non-implementation of the scheme?

Operation of NREGS

1629. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been in operation in 150 districts of the country;

(b) if so, the names of these States and Districts;

(c) the number of beneficiaries in each of the districts and the expenditure incurred on the scheme as on 31st October, 2005; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Rs. 4100,000/- crores are to be spent in coming 10 years under this scheme?

Investment in rural infrastructure by private companies/MNCs

1630. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of investment by private companies/MNCs during the last three years in rural infrastructure;

(b) whether such investments in rural areas have been inadequate; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to encourage more private investment in rural infrastructure?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Suggestion of NAC for giving new form to RES

†1631. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the suggestion made by the National Advisory Council for bringing expediency in giving new form to Rural Employment Scheme and co-operative machinery for their active operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Wage fixed for NREGS

†1632. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme every labourer will be given the wage as much as recently announced by Government for the agricultural labourer;

(b) if so, the daily wages for every skilled and unskilled labourer henceforth; and

(c) the extent to which this wage exceeds from the earlier fixed daily wages?

Meeting of the Rural Development Secretaries for PMGSY

1633. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have convened a meeting of Rural Development Secretaries regarding slow implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that under the said scheme Centre provides full Central assistance to the States for constructing and upgrading rural roads; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Steps to boost textile sector

1634. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that to boost the textile sector, Government is proposing measures including reduction in import duty on man-made fibre/yarn, etc.;

(b) how the Ministry is planning its approach to compete in the international market and put its stronghold before restrictions on China are removed two years from now;

(c) whether it is also a fact that performance of the textile industry after dismantling of the quota system is not good and has reported a negative growth of 22.5 per cent during January-March, 2005 when compared to the corresponding period in previous year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Textile exports

†1635. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact after lifting the ban on quota system by W.T.O., there are signs of continuous increase in export of textiles from India;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

export in comparison to the previous year; and

(c) the names of the countries to which export has increased and the details regarding the types of textiles in whose respect increase in export was registered?

Extension of Textile Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for wind generators

1636. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wind Power Mills Association has requested for extension of Textile Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme to cover installation of wind generators;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up the matter with Ministry of Finance;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Investment in textile sector

1637. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether with Indian textile sector falling short by huge margin of required investment target set by the Ministry of Textiles, Ministry is seeking foreign investments from countries like the US, Japan, Italy, etc.;

(b) if so, whether Textile Ministry had envisaged Rs.40,000 crore of investment every year for next five years to make industry internationally competitive;

(c) if so, whether Government has been able to attract investments only to tune of Rs.20,000 crore in last one year (2004-05); and

(d) if so, the main proposals that are being considered to complete investment project of 40,000 crores in this sector?

Production and export of cloth

†1638. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cloth is produced in mill, powerloom and handloom sectors;

(b) if so, the quantum of cloth produced in each of the above sectors during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(c) the sector-wise quantum of the cloth exported/produced in each of these sectors and the sector-wise quantum of cloth targeted to be produced in the year 2005-06?

Steps to help textile industries on verge of closure

1639. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any plan or scheme to help the industries in textile sector which are on the verge of closure in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Promotion of textile, handloom and handicraft industry

†1640. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for promotion of textile, handloom and handicraft industry and technology;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the various plans made/to be made by Government for the promotion/modernization of textile, handloom and handicraft industry in the State of Rajasthan, especially in Jaipur and Ajmer region; and

(c) the funds allotted during the last three years for this work?

Development of bivoltine sericulture

1641. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that silk production in India is predominantly based on Multivoltine sericulture which is suitable only for handlooms rather than bivoltine sericulture which is suitable for the both;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps for development of bivoltine sericulture in the country;

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

(e) whether Government propose to provide any financial assistance/subsidy to handloom silk weavers of Tamil Nadu to acquire power looms capable of weaving bivoltine silk; and

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

Apparel textile parks

1642. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for opening/starting Apparel Textile Parks in the country;

(b) if so, what are the main ground for opening the same;

(c) how much amount is proposed for such Parks; and

(d) whether Government of Gujarat have asked Government for granting such Parks in Gujarat and what is the response to it?

Availability of cotton yarn

1643. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any handloom and powerloom units are facing closure due to non-availability of cotton yarn at reasonable prices;

(b) if so, the number of such units closed down in the country till date, State-wise;

(c) whether Government has announced any relaxation in the import of cotton yarn in view of its insufficient availability; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to ensure the availability of cotton yarn?

Collection of Textile Committee Cess

1644. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is yet to collect large amount of Textile Committee Cess;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of cess collected by Government so far;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to withdraw the Textile Committee Cess; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

Import of Wool

†1645. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of demand and supply of wool in the country;

(b) whether wool is also imported from foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the value and quantity of wool imported during the last three years?

Role of NIFT in increasing Exports

1646. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 143 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd August, 2005 and state:

(a) whether NIFT has been of help in increasing exports of textiles and garments from India;

(b) the details of the contribution of NIFT to the sector; and

(c) the expectations in the future?

NEW DELHI;
The 1st December, 2005

Agrahayana 10, 1927 (*Saka*)

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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