

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 8, 2002/ Phalgun 17, 1923 (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

Salinity increase in Gujarat

909. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that salinity
increase in Gujarat is causing a concern to
agriculture;

(b) if so, how much land has been
rendered useless for agriculture due to
salinity ingress in Gujarat during the recent
years;

(c) what steps Government propose and
the time frame to meet the above situation,
to stop salinity ingress; and

(d) the details of saline land of States
and Union Territories having Coastal areas,
from 1991 to 2001?

Non-availability of insecticides to farmers

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

(a) whether Government are aware that
farmers at several places in the country are

agitating due to non-availability of
insecticides to them;

(b) if so, at which places;

(c) what measures Government are
taking to make the insecticides available to
farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Red soil disease of coconut

911. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT
RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether red soil disease in coconut
plant, has been reported in Andhra Pradesh,
especially in Sritrakulam;

(b) if so, the reasons analysed for the
disease; and

(c) the action taken to seek opinion of
experts for remedial measure in this regard?

Agricultural reforms

912. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-
CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to introduce new agriculture reforms;

(b) if so, whether there is no shortage of foodgrains in the country at present, and there is excess stock, which has created problems for storage;

(c) whether this excess of foodgrains has necessitated corporate management in agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the agriculture sector, to meet the situation of excess foodgrains in the country?

Slaughtering of cattle

913. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when was the last census of livestock carried out in the country and what was the cattle population as per that census, State-wise;

(b) how many cattle heads have been slaughtered since 1992, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that inspite of legal and illegal slaughtering, the cattle population is not depleting; if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) what steps are taken to prevent illegal slaughtering of cattle-heads?

Purchase of cotton by CCI

914. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed by Government to purchase cotton from cotton growing States;

(b) if so, the quantity of cotton/bales purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) from each State during the last one year, so far, particularly from Gujarat;

(c) whether the purchase of cotton was as per the target fixed;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) in what manner Government propose to compensate the farmers whose cotton remained unsold/unpurchased?

Agreement with Philippines for rice varieties

915. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Council of Agriculture Research and the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines, have signed a work plan to produce germ plasm on upper Rice for higher yield and Golden rice' with vitamin A; and

(b) if so, what are the salient conditions of the agreement?

Agriculture growth in H.P.

916. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the rate of growth targetted and achieved in agricultural sector in Himachal Pradesh during the last four years;

(b) the target set for the year 2001-2002 and the likely achievement thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the rate of growth of production in Himachal Pradesh, especially in hilly areas?

Rules for financial help to KVKs

†917. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be
pleased to state:

(a) the principles/rules formulated for
providing financial help to Krishi Vigyan
Kendras, being set up by the Indian Council
for Agricultural Research in each district;

(b) whether the Standing Committee on
Agriculture has expressed apprehensions
regarding these principles/rules;

(c) whether these Kendras cannot be made
a medium for providing latest scientific
information with regard to agricultur, to the
farmers; and

(d) if so, what steps Government are
going to take in this direction?

Mobile offices of banks in rural areas

918. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED
KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to provide credit
and storage facilities to farmers at their door
steps, Government have been considering to
take steps to ensure that Rural and Co-operative
Banks provide mobile offices which may, while
giving loans, also collect stores of agricultural
produce from farmers to keep it as security for
the loan funds extended to farmers; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken
to promote such mobile rural banks for
farmers?

Assistance to co-operatives of weaker sections in H.P. and Gujarat

919. SHRI ANIL SHARMA:
SHRI AHMED PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any centrally
sponsored scheme of assistance to co-
operatives for weaker sections, scheduled
castes and scheduled tribes, especially in
far flung areas of Himachal Pradesh and
Gujarat, if so, the salient features thereof;

(b) what are the criteria for allocating
funds under each scheme in those State;

(c) what are the details of funds released
and utilised during the last five years; and

(d) the present status of the scheme?

Production of cotton in Gujarat

920. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-
SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of cotton in
Gujarat has lowered;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the farmers are not getting
adequate support price of cotton; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to satisfy
the farmers?

National Agriculture Insurance Scheme in States

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

(a) the names of States which have not
yet adopted the National Agriculture
Insurance Scheme, which has been in
operation since 2000;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made so far by
Government to ensure that the scheme is
implemented in all the States at the earliest,
for the benefit of farmers?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Research on rice and cotton pests

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

(a) whether any research has been made by the Indian council of Agriculture Research to protect rice and cotton from pests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the projects undertaken by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research?

Relief and rehabilitation for earthquake victims of Gujarat

923. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Government assistance to Gujarat for relief and rehabilitation for the victims of the killer earthquake on 26th January, 2001; and

(b) the break-up, headwise, and the status of implementation during the last one year?

Agricultural and non-credit Co-operatives

924. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of co-operatives, agricultural and non-credit, in the country, State and Union Territory-wise, with their membership, share capital, working capital, reserves and deposits;

(b) how many villages and households are covered by these co-operatives, in percentage, in the country;

(c) whether Government intend to declare a national Co-operative policy, in

view of its importance in rural economy, job creation and balanced regional development; and

(d) the number of persons who have been employed in co-operatives, State and Union Territory-wise?

Promotion of micro-irrigation

925. SHRI KARAN SINGH: SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive scheme for promotion of micro-irrigation, facilities through drip irrigation and sprinkler equipment and adoption of other cost effective methods, including mechanization of agriculture through cooperatives, to boost agricultural produce, has been under consideration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken to implement the same indicating the steps to harness State Panchayat and local resources, talent and leadership?

Marketing yards and godowns for farming

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

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for setting up marketing yards and Government godowns for providing additional storage and marketing facilities to farmers have been submitted by governments of different States, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the Central aid, if any, sought therefor; and

(c) Government's decision thereon?

Area under oil palm cultivation

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

(a) whether a plan has been drawn up to increase the area under oil palm cultivation to produce about three million tonnes of additional crude palm oil by the year 2025, so as to bridge the present huge gap between demand and supply of edible oils in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the specific regions identified for expanding the area under plantation and for setting up of additional processing facilities, the financial outlays contemplated, etc.?

Production and export of fruits

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

(a) the total export of fruits during the last financial year;

(b) what has been the rate of growth of production and export during the last five years;

(c) which are the major countries to which the exports are made; and

(d) what is India's position in production of fruits?

Crop insurance policy

929. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced any New Crop Insurance Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the manner in which the farmers are likely to be benefited; and

(d) by which date the said policy is likely to be implemented?

Assistance to States

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

(a) the names of States in which assistance for Integrated Dairy Development Programme, rapid milk cooling plants, dairy plants and refrigerated vehicles in non-white revolution hilly and backward areas was given during the last two years; and

(b) the names of States and the financial assistance given to them during the last two years by the Department of Food Processing Industries for setting up of cold stores, refrigerated transport system and sale outlets for processed food, including processed milk products, in the course of development of basic facilities?

Procurement of copra by NAFED in Kerala

931. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance extended by NAFED to Kerala for procurement of Copra during the current season;

(b) the quantity of copra procured by Kerala Government through the financial assistance of NAFED; and

(c) whether Government would consider to extend financial assistance to Kerala for developing Coconut cultivation and to protect the coconut trees from diseases?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Shortage of fodder and drugs for animals

932. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States suffering from shortage of fodder and drugs for animals; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

Use of wehat herbicide 'Leader'

93. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new generation wheat bherbicide Leader, launched three years ago by a multi-national seed company has registered maximum sales in north India;

(b) whether apart from its ability to control different broad leaf weeds, it has also led to an increase in the yield; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views on the use of this new seed to improve the growth rate in the agriculture sector?

Subsidy to fertilizer sector

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

(a) what is the total quantum of subsidy given to the fertilizer sector during the last three years;

(b) the names of fertilizer manufacturing companies to whom this subsidy has been given during that period and the amount given to each of those companies; and

(c) the amount of subsidy given to marginal farmers, especially those who hold below five acres of land, giving the figures State-wise?

Diversification of IFFCO

935. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to diversify the activities of IFFCO in the insurance sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Production cost of fertilizers

936. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertilizer subsidy is given to cover the high cost of fertilizer industry;

(b) if so, the increase in the cost of production of fertilizers in both the public and private sectors, since 1998; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to minimise the cost of production and to increase efficiency of plant use?

Alagh Committee recommendations of urea pricing

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

(a) whether recommendations of Dr. Y.K. Alagh Committee and Expenditure Reforms Committee on new pricing policy for urea units have been received;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations;

(c) Government's decision thereon;

(d) by when these would be implemented; and

(e) whether the new pricing policy would bring down the fertilizer subsidy; if so, the quantum thereof?

NPPA close down of

938. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NPPA (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority) has no role to play in the light of patent law;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Chairman and Member (Secretary) of NPPA have been transferred;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no officer is interested to join NPPA; and

(d) if so, whether Government would consider to close down NPPA?

Decline in land fertility due to fertilizers

†939. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fertility of land throughout the country is continuously decreasing, due to use of chemical fertilizers by farmers, for their crops;

(b) if so, whether Government would impart training to farmers for using useful chemical fertilizers, after undertaking and extensive test of agricultural land in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that farmers in India get fertilizers on lowest subsidy in comparison to their counterparts in other countries of the world?

Reduction in price control span of drugs

940. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced reduction in price control span on certain category of drugs;

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

(c) what is Government's mechanism to ensure that prices of essential drugs do not increase exorbitantly?

Decontrol of Fertilizers Industry

941. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided for total decontrol of fertilizers industry;

(b) whether Government also propose to gradually cut subsidy in urea price;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how the farmers would be helped?

Wild life population in Uttaranchal

†942. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wild life population in Uttaranchal is decreasing continuously, due to bio-diversity;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the growing number of monkeys and baboons and the scare being caused by them is a great problem for this hill State; and

(c) if so, whether Government have made any efforts to arrest the decrease in population of wildlife and to provide relief from the scare of monkeys and baboons in the newly Uttaranchal State, if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Priorities for Wild life and forests

943. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Board of Wild Life, at its meeting after a gap of four years, has recommended priority sector States for wild life and forests;

(b) whether it has recommended lifting of ban on recruitment to clear the way to fill 2000 vacant post and introduction of reforms, providing more investment and greater priority to this sector; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this new policy and the action plan in that regard?

Impact of Euro norms on motor vehicles industry

944. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of norms specified in Euro-I, Euro-II, Euro-III and Euro-IV;

(b) the present situation in India to match the Euro norms;

(c) whether the domestic motor vehicles industry would be seriously affected or closed down for adhering to the said norms; and

(d) what would be the additional investment for upgrading refineries to produce Euro-III auto fuels (petrol and diesel) by 2005?

Destruction of Bt cotton crops

945. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any standing cotton crops raised through the pest-resistant genetically

modified Bt cotton seeds have been destroyed in any State:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the loss thereby; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to protect the interests of poor farmers?

Forests ranges in Chilka Wild life division

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

(a) the number of forests ranges which the Chilka Wildlife Division in Orissa has been divided into, giving the details of area of each; and

(b) the figures of waterflow/birds in each of these range areas, for each of the last five years, till date?

Construction activities in coastal area

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

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to relax restrictions on construction activities in the coastal Zone Area and to permit infrastructural facilities and construction of dwelling units for local inhabitants of such areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when necessary amendment is likely to be issued to Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991?

Discharge of effluents in sea

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

(a) whether it is a fact that polluting industries along coastal areas in the country

are discharging effluents into the sea which has badly affected the fish production;

(b) if so, the details of such industries, State-wise; and

(c) the details of steps which Government propose to take against such industries?

Ban on polythene bags

†949. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chhattisgarh Government has sent any proposal to the Central Government, to ban the use of polythene bags;

(b) if so, the main issues raised therein;

(c) the policy of Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of action being taken by Government with regard to the use of polythene?

Reconsideration of order on Bt Cotton

950. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-SHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat State Biotechnology Coordination Committee has represented to the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) to reconsider their order on Bt Cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the revised order of GEAC?

Death Peacocks

†951. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Peacocks have been found dead in various parts of the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the number of such Peacocks, alongwith the locations where such Peacocks have been found and whether Government have conducted any enquiry with regard to their death; and

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

Destruction of forests by mining in Assam

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

(a) whether Government are aware of destruction of forests and hills on account of open cast mining operations in the Patkai Range of Assam by the North East Coal Field Ltd. of CIL;

(b) if so, the details of clause-wise protective measures provided in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulatory) Act, 1957 and these taken;

(c) the extent of damage caused to forests and natural topography, vegetation and wild life vegetation, drinking water and cultivable land; and

(d) the total hectares of land utilised for open cast mining operations since inception and the land subsequently reclaimed and made fit for vegetation?

Riverbed Wetland Plan for Yamuna

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

(a) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has drawn up a project called

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Riverbed Wetland plan to ensure unhindered water flow in the Yamuna river, which is unitarily reduced to a sewer currently;

(b) if so, the details of the Plan, including the time-frame and cost involved in implementation of the project; and

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

Development of CRPF in Berbera forests in Orissa

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Berbera forests in Orissa could be saved from decimation by deployment of Central Reserve Police Force, in the year 1990;

(b) whether the Central Government have received any proposal for deployment of the CRPF in the Satkosia Gorge forests of Orissa, if so, whether would improve the situation if such deployment takes place;

(c) the estimated value of trees inside the wildlife sanctuary, as per present market value; whether would it cross Rs. 200 crore; and

(d) what is census figures of major animals inside the sanctuary?

Effect of forests fires

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

(a) what are the deleterious effects of forests fires on the regeneration capacity of natural forests, including the regeneration of Sal (*Shorea robusta*);

(b) whether any study has been undertaken by Government or State Governments in this regard; if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that forests in our country, predominantly Sal, are being gradually thinned out by the recurring forest fires, collection of leaves, etc.; and

(d) whether Government have constituted any Technology Mission on preventing and combating forest fires?

Pollution by air-conditioning equipments

†956. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that environment in the cities and metropolis has become poisonous due to the pollution caused by the growing use of air-conditioning equipments and motor vehicles;

(b) if so, the policy being adopted by Government to provide relief to the public from this problem;

(c) whether it is also fact that even the trees being planted are affected by pollution; and

(d) if so, whether Government would give thrust to planting such trees which absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen?

Publicity to notifications for reservation/deservation of forests

957. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that notifications issued by Government for reservation and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

de-reservation of forest areas from time to time are not brought to the notice of the general public through media publicity;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is Government's programme for rehabilitation of people and the industry affected, by declaring reserve forests in metropolitan cities;

(d) whether Government are considering to grant concessions before or after implementation of the Forest Act, in areas where industry was already functioning; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Vehicular pollution in Delhi

958. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that vehicular pollution is going on unabated in Delhi, despite introducing CNG;

(b) whether it is a fact that vehicular pollution in Delhi has increased from 64 per cent of 72 per cent in the past ten years, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 27th December, 2001;

(c) if so, what preventive measures Government have taken so far to check vehicular pollution in view of the fact that the number of vehicles in Delhi is likely to increase further in 2002-2003?

Forestry projects in Uttar Pradesh

959. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of forestry projects being implemented in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the total amount of funds allocated and spent on these projects during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the details of achievements made in this regard?

Utilisation of funds for Food Parks

960. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the funds allocated by Government for setting up Food Parks in States, meant to serve as basic infrastructure hub for providing common facilities to small and medium enterprises in the food processing sector, have remained largely unutilised;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated for specific projects, State-wise, the extent of actual utilization and the reasons for under-utilisation, if any;

(c) the fresh coordinated plans drawn up for better utilisation of the infrastructure and the funds allocated; and

(d) the steps taken to fine-tune the monitoring mechanism established for the purpose?

Effect of foreign investment in FPIs on agriculture sector

†961. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign investment in food processing sector would adversely affect agricultural sectors of India and Indian farmers would be ruined after falling in the trap of foreign institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that storage, cold storage and other agricultural infrastructures would be handed over the foreign companies under the policy of foreign investment?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Kendriya Vidyalayas in Pucca buildings

†962. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3504 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th August, 2000 and state:

(a) the number of Kendriya Vidyalayas running in tents which have been shifted in pucca buildings by Government till 1st January, 2002, State-wise; and

(b) by when remaining Kendriya Vidyalayas would be shifted in pucca buildings?

Insufficient staff in Kendriya Vidyalayas

963. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country are not having sufficient staff;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government are taking to fill-up the vacancies?

Posting of KV principals at home towns

964. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that as per the transfer guidelines of Kendriya-Vidyalaya Sangathan a candidate selected for or promoted to the post of principal is not posted at his/her home town; and

(b) if so, the details of those who have been posted at their home towns on their

initial posting as principal during the preceding three years, alongwith the justification in each case?

Quota for poor students in Delhi schools

965. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to newsitem captioned "Most private schools have no quota for poor students" appearing in Times of India, New Delhi dated February 18, 2002;

(b) whether it is the Ministry's responsibility to ensure that the schools in Delhi/which have been provided land at low rates, fulfill their obligation of providing fee education to the poor; if not, whose responsibility is this; and

(c) the names of schools in Delhi which have been allotted land at concessional rates and the extent to which each school is discharging its obligation at present?

Survey for school education

†966. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the NCERT has decided to conduct an All-India survey for school education;

(b) if so, regarding which different contax by time sthe information would be collected;

(c) by when the above work has been decided to be completed; and

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Enquiry against principal, KV
Naseerabad**

†967. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to
answer to Unstarred Question 676 given in
the Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 2001 and
state:

(a) whether the teachers transferred from
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Naseerabad, had
complained to the higher authorities against
the principal and had demanded enquiry
against him and cancellation of his
deputation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this matter was enquired
into; if so, with what result?

Shiksha Sahayog Yojana

968. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently
sponsored Shiksha Sahayog Yojana a
scholarship scheme to help build a future
for the poor children, specially for people
below the poverty line;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;
and

(c) the details nodal agencies State-wise,
to whom applications for scholarships are
required to be submitted by the concerned
student?

**Construction of hostels in Delhi
University by NEC**

969. DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA:
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to

answer to Unstarred Question 3458 given
in the Rajya Sabha on 17th July, 1998 and
state:

(a) the status of the hostels constructed
in North and South Campus of University
of Delhi by NEC fund, indicating the
location, final cost, dates of their full
functioning and the pattern of seat allocation;
and

(b) the reasons for inordinate delay and
responsibility fixed on persons neglecting
this backward region?

Bio-technology centre at Allahabad

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

(a) whether an Indo-Russian Centre for
Biotechnology has been set up recently at
Allahabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including
the nature and extent of co-operation
extended by Russia and the pattern of
funding and sharing the results of various
projects; and

(c) the details of specific projects
identified to be taken up in different areas/
disciplines of biotechnology?

**Computer education in Gujarat
Schools**

971. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the
Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are
implementing any Central scheme in Gujarat
to provide computer education to school
students particularly in Government schools;
and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Amendment in the Syllabi in the University of Delhi

†972. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the task of amendment in the syllabi in the University of Delhi has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken by Government to complete this task at the earliest; and

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

CAT decision on transfer of Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Administrative Tribunal's Principal Bench while deciding applications challenging inter alia, the legality of transfer of Kendriya Vidyalaya teachers improved amounts of damage of KVS in December, 2000 besides setting aside the impugned order of transfers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of their execution or appeals, if preferred?

Inservice training of primary school teachers

†974. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme with the collaboration of UNESCO for inservice training of primary school teachers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if what manner the scheme would be implemented;

(c) whether former Chairman of National Open School and Adviser of UNESCO, Prof. M. Mukhopadhyaya has submitted any scheme which would be included in Ninth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any other scheme for inservice training of teachers is under consideration of Government; if so, the details thereof?

Suspension of KVS employees of Bhopal region

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

(a) what are the details of circumstances under which employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan placed under suspension, are attached to other Vidyalayas of Bhopal Region;

(b) the details of employees placed under suspension during 2000-2001; and

(c) the details of employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Bhopal Region placed under the suspension during the above period who have not been attached to other Kendriya Vidyalayas?

Awards for literacy work in A.P.

976. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts which received special awards for literacy work in Andhra Pradesh in 2000-2001;

(b) the names of districts in the State which received awards for literacy work in 1999-2000;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) the criteria for assessing such work by the district authorities;

(d) whether the awards are given to individual officers; and

(e) the details of such awards, etc. given by the Literacy Mission?

Payment to EDCIL by KVS

†977. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 667, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd November, 2001 and state:

(a) whether permission of the Chairman, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan was obtained for additional payment to Educational Consultants India Limited (EDCIL) with regard to work order given to this instrumentality for recruiting teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas during 1999-2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Computer education as fundamental right

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

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to make the computer education compulsory in the fundamental right of education to children in the age-group of six to fourteen years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government so far, for expansion of computer education in Government schools?

Modernisation of Madarsa education

979. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of 'modernisation of madarsa education';

(b) the present status of the scheme; and

(c) the out-lay the current year?

AP tribal areas under Adult Education Programme

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

(a) whether adult tribal women in tribal dominated areas of Andhra Pradesh are being covered under the Adult Education Programme of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many adult tribal women were made literate or able to read and write during the last five years in the State, Yearwise and district-wise; and

(d) what other specific measures Government propose to take to spread literacy among adult tribal women of Andhra Pradesh?

Assistance for primary education in Chattisgarh

†981. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance provided, both internal and external, for universalisation of primary education in Chhattisgarh;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) which schemes are being implemented for this purpose by the State Government at present;

(c) the achievements of such schemes; and

(d) the number of children not going to schools this year, district-wise?

Vacant posts in Pondicherry University

982. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts in the Pondicherry University and the number of posts kept vacant by the University, till 15th February, 2001;

(b) what steps are being taken to fill up these posts; and

(c) what are the reasons for not filling them up?

Financial assistance for Women and Children in Assam

983. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided to voluntary organisations functioning at present in Assam, for welfare programmes for women and children, particularly in tribal and hilly areas of the state, during the last three years; and

(b) the total funds utilized for the same during that period?

Research period for Ph.D. degree in B.R. Ambedkar University

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

(a) the minimum research period for award of Ph.D. Degree in Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra, affiliated to and financed by the University Grants Commission;

(b) whether there is any provision to reduce this period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, particularly in respect of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra?

Theft of computers in KVs

†985. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been reports of theft of computers from Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Directorates of distance education in Universities

†986. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

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

(a) whether Government are considering to establish distance education directorates in all the universities;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

Mid-day meal scheme in Gujarat

987. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, popularly called Mid-day Meal Scheme, in Gujarat; and

(b) the role being played by the Gujarat Government in this regard?

South Indian language teachers in Gujarat

988. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are releasing Central Grants to Gujarat for appointment of language teachers in schools in the State, to teach South Indian Languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last five years and the number of Teachers appointed, yearwise and district-wise; and

(c) what other measures are being taken to promote modern Indian languages in Gujarat?

New IIT institute at Bellary

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

(a) whether Government are planning to start new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in the country;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has requested to establish an IIT at Nandihally in Bellary district;

(c) if so, whether Government have agreed to the same; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

Navodaya Vidyalayas in Assam

990. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Navodaya Vidyalayas functioning at present in Assam;

(b) whether there is a proposal to set up any more Navodaya Vidyalaya in the State;

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

Funds to Assam for Literacy

991. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for literacy in Assam during the 9th Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the funds allocated for the purpose have been utilised in the State during this period;

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Brain drain from India

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

(a) whether Government's attention has beendrawn to the newsitem captioned, "Brain drain can be harnessed, not controled", appearing in the Hindu (Business Line) of 12th January, 2002;

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

(c) whether Government have undertaken any systematic study to identify the reasons for brain drain from the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to harness, control and prevent the same?

UGC assistance for multi-campus establishment

993. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has given any assistance to any University during 2000-2001 and the current year for any Multi-campus establishment; and

(b) whether the University Grants Commission has agreed in principle to finance setting up of more than one campus in any University?

Seats in Business Schools of IIMs

994. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of seats in the six Business Schools of IIMs;

(b) the number passed out in the academic year ending 2001 and what percentage of them have got jobs in campus interview; and

(c) whether Government provide grants for operational/capital expenditure of these IIMs?

Educational Fund

995. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted an educational fund to fill the

gap between actual financial requirements of the education sector and the available budgetary funds;

(b) what would be the amount constituting this fund;

(c) whether States would also contribute towards this fund; and

(d) what are other details in this regard?

Fake certificate of National Open School

996. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fake certificate of National Open School are being sold openly at many places in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action to streamline the National Open School and save it from a mockery?

Role of NGOs in National Literacy Mission

997. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Literacy Mission recognizes the potential of NGOs in furthering its programmes;

(b) if so, the reasons for treating NGOs as new organisation every year though they are serving for several years; and

(c) the guidelines for recognition of NGOs?

SC directive about sexual harassment of women

†998. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether the Supreme Court directive to prevent sexual harassment of women at work place is being fully complied with;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Adult and Informal Education Centres

† 999. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of adult and informal education centres operating in the country, especially in Punjab, along with the locations thereof;

(b) whether all these centres are working without any hindrance;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more such adult and informal education centres in Punjab; and

(d) if so, the district-wise details thereof?

Crime against women

1000. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the crime against women in general and dowry related crimes in particular are on the increase; and

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

Enquiry into administrative transfers in KVs

† 1001. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to

answer to Unstarred Question 3119, given in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd March, 2001 and state:

(a) the details regarding the outcomes of discreet enquiry into 67 cases of administrative transfers and the action taken thereafter;

(b) whether discreet enquiry into remaining cases has been completed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Suspension of Principal of Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bhopal

1002. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether officers of the Government and of their Instrumentalities are placed under suspension when CBI raids their offices on complaints of irregularities/corruption;

(b) if so, the details of the relevant provisions under which this is done; and

(c) the details of Principals of Kendriya Vidyalayas of Bhopal Region suspended under such situations, during 2001?

Development of Sanskrit in A.P.

1003. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Central plan schemes to develop and popularise Sanskrit in Andhra Pradesh as the language is very near to Telugu, the main language of the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

**Remunerative prices of farmers
produce**

1004. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are prospects of excellent rabi crop in 2001-02, surprising even 1999-2000 peak of 209 million tonnes if so, whether adequate steps being taken to safeguard the interests of farmers with regard to remunerative price of their produce, so that past unfortunate incidents of farmers taking desperate steps like suicide do not occur; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

**Discovery of Archaeological site in
Gulf of Cambay**

1005. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Archaeological site, dating back to 7,500 BC and older than hitherto oldest known human civilizations including those found in the Valleys of Sumer, Harappa and Egypt, was discovered by a team of Indian Marine Archeologists in the Gulf of Cambay off Gujarat coast;

(b) if so, the details of the findings and the basis for dating it back to 7,500 BC; and

(c) what further explorations are being made in and around this area?

Pollution at sea-coasts

†1006. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of samples collected by coastal ocean monitoring and prediction system to test the increasing pollution at the sea-coasts;

(b) at which places proofs of increase or decrease in pollution have been found through the tests;

(c) whether assistance has been sought from National Environment Engineering Institute (NEEI), to control environmental pollution; and

(d) the details of measures taken by Government to control environmental pollution in these coastal areas?

**Graduate class IV employees in
railway canteens in Parliament
Complex**

1007. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Graduate and 10+2 class IV employees are working in the Railways canteens in the Parliament complex since 1984, and even before that;

(b) whether such employees have not been promoted even after rendering service for nearly two decades;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of graduate and 10+2 waiters working in railway canteens in Parliament complex at a particular post for the last 15-16 years?

**Phasing out of subsidies on rail
passenger traffic**

1008. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to seriously implement the recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee on railway restructuring;

(b) whether that Committee has sought phasing out of subsidies on passenger traffic, to ensure a better freight passenger fare ratio;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether the cross subsidy from freight to passenger traffic amounts almost to Rs. 5000 crores and this is cornered by non-poor urban passengers; and

(d) whether Government are aware that high freight tariff diverts business to other modes of transport?

Jammu-Udhampur rail link project

1009. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jammu-Udhampur rail link project, which was initiated 20 years back, still remains a dream;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during this long period three construction companies have come and gone and a sum of Rs. 1.42 crore remains to be realized from the defaulting contractors, who were awarded contract by throwing all rules to the wind;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether recovery of the outstanding dues has not been made so far; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when this project would be completed?

Amount payable by the Railways to IISCO

1010. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of approx Rs. 10.34 crore is payable to Indian Iron and Steel Company by the Railways including Central, Northern, North Eastern, Eastern Railways etc.;

(b) whether a sum of Rs. 18.84 crore is also payable by the South Eastern Railway to Indian Iron and Steel Company, as on

31st December, 2000 as per the award given by the arbitrator; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Railways to clear the dues, in view of the acute financial crisis of Indian Iron and Steel Company?

Adjustment of Railway Coal Freight against Power Bills

1011. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways enjoy special concessional tariff on the power used for traction in view of its role in hauling coal for power plants at concessional rates;

(b) the amount of freight dues to the Railways still to be recovered from SEBs NTPC, etc., and whether the Railways could adjust their power bills against these outstanding dues;

(c) whether Government would consider setting up captive power plants for the Railways as a long-term perspective, as it already enjoys the advantage of haulage of fuel (coal) with its own rolling stock?

Impure Mineral water in the Railways

1012. SHRI RAM MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what new initiatives the Indian Railway catering corporation is going to take;

(b) whether it is a fact that the recent investigation conducted by the Railways reveals that the level of impurity in mineral water supplied to rail passengers and others at stations and in trains is more than 25 percent; and

(c) if so, whether the ministry proposes

to set up its own water treatment plant for supply to the Railways?

Length of rail route

† 1013. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of rail route in the country at present;

(b) the kilometerage of rail-lines on which electric and diesel engines are being operated, separately;

(c) the total length of rail route extended during the last three years; and

(d) the amount spent thereon during the same period?

Conversion of Rangia-Morkakselng rail line

1014. SHRI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to convert the Rangia Morkakaselng MG rail line in to BG;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Doubling of rail-lines in Gujarat

1015. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to double the single rail lines in gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Platforms and amenities on CR Station

1016. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no platforms and other amenities at Central Railway, Railway stations at Khopoli, Lauji, Dolawali; Kelavali and palsadari in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to construct platforms on the above stations and by when?

Platforms at CST, Mumbai

1017. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Railway has decided to increase the number of platforms at Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus at Mumbai;

(b) whether the Central Railway is going to acquire land of St. Georges Hospital, Mumbai, and

(c) if not, the problems in that regard?

Railway projects in Andhra Pradesh

1018. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the dtails of the ongoing railway projects in Andhra Pradesh and the progress made thereon, project-wise;

(b) by when those projects are expected to be completed;

(c) the details of expenditure incurred thereon, till date, project-wise;

(d) the funds required for completion of the pending projects; and

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(e) the steps being taken by Government for their completion?

Deployment of RPF for passenger security

1019. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMA-CHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend Railway Protection Act and Indian Railways Act to facilitate deployment of railway protection force personnels for security of passengers;

(b) whether more personnel would be recruited by the railways for this propose; and

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

Slow progress in laying rail lines

† 1020. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem appearing in "Rashtriya Sahara" dated 23rd December, 2001, captioned, "Atyadhunik Takneek Ke Bajood 13 Hazar Kilometers patriayan hi bichh payee";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and the reasons of slow progress of Indian Railways?

Passenger amenities at railway stations in Andhra Pradesh

† 1021. DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provision has been made during the current financial year to upgrade

passenger amenities at the selected railway stations in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stations selected for the purpose?

Third rail line on Bhopal-Beena section

† 1022. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a third rail line is proposed to be laid on the Bhopal-Beena section;

(b) if so, by when this project is likely to be completed;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of financial provision made for implementation of this project?

Running of Bhopal express

† 1023. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a demand for running the Bhopal Express from platform No. 1 instead of from platform No. 5, of Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station and to attach separate AC/1st class coaches to this train for the convenience of rail passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action in this regard; and

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

Cutting down the railway staff

1024. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(a) whether there has been any proposal to cut down Railways staff by 20 per cent;

(b) if so, whether VRS is proposed for this propose;

(c) if not, how the Railways propose to achieve the objective; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed for this purpose?

Losses by new trains

† 1025. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new trains flagged off in various States during 2001;

(b) the number of such trains running into losses since the very beginning, till date; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to met or losses made by these trains?

Railway Fire Force Central at Hubli

1026. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Railway Fire Force Centre at Hubli was closed down;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would consider re-opening the above Railway Fire Force Centre?

Permitting journey by pass holders in Lucknow Mail

1027. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no train between 0620 hours and 0737 hours

from Ghaziabad to New Delhi and Ghaziabad commuters had requested the Railway Board to expedite justice, by permitting them to travel in the 4229 up Lucknow Mail which leaves Ghaziabad at 0635 hours for new Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a second class pass-holders (commuters) are allowed to travel in the same train from Hapur to New Delhi; and

(c) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in favour of Ghaziabad commuters, especially to decongest Delhi?

Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority

1028. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUK-KARASU:

SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR:

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to set up an independent Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of measures taken for tariff rebalancing and reforms in the Indian Railways?

Guage converssion of Palampur-Samkhiyali section

1029. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a joint venture project for Guage conversion of Palampur-samkhiyali section;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of participation by the parties; and
- (c) the reasons for the delay in completion of the project?

Decline in railway passenger traffic

1030. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have experienced a continuous decline in their position relative to the road transport system;
- (b) if so, the trend during last five years;
- (c) whether the skewed tariff policy in favour of ordinary passenger tariff is responsible for this state of affairs; and
- (d) if so, the details of corrective measures taken in this regard?

Administrative cost of Railways

1031. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the administrative costs of Railways have been on the increase during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps taken to control the administrative costs?

Cost-effective strategies to Improve railway equipment

1032. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a three day International Conference on evolving cost-effective strategies to improve the Railway equipment was held recently in Delhi;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) what was the outcome of the conference?

Collection of railway dues from SEB's

1033. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total dues to Railways by various State Electricity Boards as on 31st January, 2002; zone-wise, State-wise;
- (b) the details of the dues pending for more than two years, Zone-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to collect dues from the SEBs and from the Central power Companies;
- (d) whether the Railways propose to set up its own generating units; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Rail infrastructure development in Karnataka

1034. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Karnataka Government has forwarded any major proposals to the Railways for approval, to initiate rail infrastructure development under Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation; if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Railways have approved the proposals sent by Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation; and
- (e) if so, the details of projects and financial assistance, sanctioned in this regard?

Projects in NF Railway

1035. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing projects being executed in the NF Railway, indicating the date of sanction, original and present cost of project year-wise allocation and utilisation made, progress of work, allocations for 2002-2003 alongwith the target set; and

(b) the details of additional budgetary support received from various sources to complete those projects?

Fast trains for Dwarkaji and Somnath

1036. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to connect Dwarkaji and Somnath with Ahmedabad and Mumbai, by introducing fast trains like Rajdhani Express;

(b) if so, whether any study has been undertaken in the regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether traffic on the Ahmedabad-Dwarkaji/Somnath-Mumbai-Dwarkaji/Somnath routes has increased tremendously;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by Government in this direction?

Commissions for Rail Accidents

1037. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Judicial Commissions appointed to go into rail accidents during the last five years;

(b) the names of Judges appointed, with their tenurs in Commissions;

(c) whether the Railways have a mechanism to see that recommendations of Commissions are implemented; and

(d) if so, whether recommendations of Judicial Commissions have been implemented by Railway?

Mobilisation of investment in Ministry of Railways

1038. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee headed by Shri Rakesh Mohan has recommended to mobilise investments to the tune of Rs. 2,00,000 crore during the next fifteen years to invest the same in Ministry of Railways; and

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

Investments by Container Corporation of India

1039. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Container Corporation of India plans to invest Rs. 1,300 crore for expanding its operation by 2005;

(b) if so, whether investments would be made for expansion of terminals, increasing the rolling stock and Infotech infrastructure;

(c) whether the details in this regard have been worked out; and

(d) if so, by when these are likely to be taken up?

Satellite railway station in Thirubananthapuram

1040. SHRI N.K. PREMA-CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to establish a satellite railway-station in Thiruvananthapuram;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to improve the present amenities available in Trivendrum central, Ernakulam junction and Kollam junction railway-stations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Utilization of waste land by the Railways

1041. SHRI ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have prepared schemes to utilize waste land along rail tracks to generate funds for completion of pending projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the new ventures would start?

Unmanned level crossings in Punjab

† 1042. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned railway level crossings in Punjab;

(b) whether it is a fact that train accidents take place frequently due to unmanning of those level crossings; and

(c) if so, what is the planning of Government to make these level crossings manned?

Rail bridges and electrification of rail routes in U.P. Rajasthan and Orissa

1043. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the urgent need for construction of railway bridges/electrification of rail routes in U.P., Rajasthan and Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof for the last three years statewide and year-wise and target-fixed for 2002-2003; and

(c) the amount of budgetary allocations made during 2002-2003 for construction of rail bridges/electrification of rail routes, as compared to 2000-01 State-wise?

Modification/Sanitation at Mainpuri platform

† 1044. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any new train between Delhi and Mainpuri in the next financial year, besides the already operating Kalindi Express;

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

(c) whether Government have taken any steps for reconstruction of and sanitation at the Mainpuri Railway platform, as passengers have to face inconvenience;

(d) whether Government would take steps for modification of sanitation at the Mainpuri platform; and

Concession in Rail fares

† 1045. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aged people to whom concession in Rail fare was provided during last three years;

(b) the loss occurred to the Railway due to this concession during the said period;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that such concession in fare is not given to these in ordinary trains;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to give concessions to the aged people in ordinary trains also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

New platform at Bhopal station

† 1046. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct platform No. 6 at Bhopal railway station;

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government so far to implement this proposal;

(c) whether it is a fact that the construction of said platform is being unnecessarily delayed;

(e) by when, construction of said platform has been decided by Government to be started for the convenience of passengers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Creation of NSDI

1047. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized a proposal for creation of National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI);

(b) if so, the details of its functions; and

(c) how Government would be benefited by this?

Assistance to Karnataka for Science and Technology projects

1048. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the proposals/projects sent by the Karnataka Government during 2001-2002 for financial assistance from Government in Science and Technology Department; and

(b) the amount sanctioned for these projects by Government?

ICOSER centres in Karnataka

1049. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) at which places the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council's project on Integration of Computational Faculty for Scientific Research (ICOSER) are located in the country;

(b) whether any ICOSER centre has been located in Karnataka;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would take steps to set up ICOSER centres in Karnataka, in view of the large number of universities, research institutes, Information Technology Institutions?

Spreading science activities among children in NER

1050. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any effective measures to spread and expand science activities among children in rural, hilly and backward areas of NER;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

- (b) if, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Single window application processing in DOB

1051. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department of Biotechnology has proposed a single window application processing cell, to be headed by a senior scientist;
- (b) whether this would be as part of a new regulatory system for the domestic biotechnology sector; and
- (c) if so, what steps are being considered in this regard?

Employees' dues in SAIL and IISCO

1052. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the statutory dues payable to employees of Steel Authority of India Limited and Indian Iron and Steel Company separately;
- (b) whether IISCO has received any fund from Government in 2001-02, to meet the above liabilities; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken by Government to liquidate the outstanding dues and mitigate the hardships of the employees?

Production of steel by main and secondary producers

† 1053. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steel producers are categorised into the main producers and the secondary producers;

(b) if so, the steel produced by each of these producers during the last three years; and

(c) which of the above categories of producers made exports during each of the above years and the value thereof?

Production of Steel

† 1054. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the installed capacity for steel production in the country exceeds the need for steel consumption; if so, the details thereof and such production capacity in public private sectors in 2001;

(b) whether steel in the country is being produced as per the production capacity there or;

(c) if not, how much installed capacity was utilised for production of steel by the private and public sector steel producing enterprises during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(d) what are the reasons for the production not being as per capacity and the effect of the under-production on production cost?

Retrenchment of SAIL employee

1055. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited proposes to reduce its redundant work-force by March, 2002;

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether labour productivity in steel sector is less than half of telecom sector and marginally better than power sector;

(c) whether the labour productivity in SAIL is less than 1/8th of the levels achieved elsewhere in steel sector; and

(d) whether considering the advantages the SAIL enjoys in raw-material sourcing and good market standing, Government would provide a rehabilitation package to SAIL?

VRS in SAIL

1056. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL has submitted a proposal for trimming its staff by over 16,000 employees through VRS;

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

(c) whether SAIL has sought Government's guarantee to raise Rs. 500 crores for this purpose;

(d) whether it is also a fact that SAIL posted a loss of Rs. 1300 crores for the period ending April-December, 2001; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons for such a loss, apart from fall in prices?

Boosting the steel industry

1057. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel industry is going through a lean period and Government plan to provide fiscal incentives, to boost the steel industry;

(b) how much has been spent on research and development out of the Steel Development Fund; and

(c) what are Government's plans to ensure that the money being spent leads to better quality of steel?

Retirement benefits in RSP

1058. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) how many employees of Rourkela Steel Plant retired in January, 2002;

(b) whether retirement benefit like P.F. Insurance, Gratuity, etc. have been paid to them;

(c) if not, by when and in what manner these would be paid, especially the gratuity; and

(d) whether gratuity is proposed to be paid in installments; if so, whether Government would pay interest accrued thereto during the period, as these employees do not get pensionary benefits?

Modernising power station of steel plants

†1059. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to modernise power stations of steel plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when this proposal is proposed to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Railways' dues to IISCO

1060. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of approximately Rs. 10.34 crore is payable to IISCO by the Railways, different zonal;

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

(b) whether a sum of Rs. 18.84 crore was also payable by the South Eastern Railway to IISCO, as on 31st December, 2000, as per the award given by the arbitrator; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to get the dues cleared from Railways at the earliest, in view of the financial crisis of IISCO?

One day Cricket Match in Firoz Shah Kotla, Delhi

† 1061. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether a one-day cricket match was organised on 31st Jan., 2002 in Firozshah Kotla ground in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that tickets were issued to spectators to watch this match;

(c) if so, the total number of spectators to whom tickets were issued;

(d) whether it is a fact that a large number of ticket holders could not gain entry in the stadium; and

(e) if so, the reasons for such disorder?

New Sports Policy

† 1062. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

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

(a) whether Government have formulated any new sport policy and whether this policy to explore the talents in rural and urban areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of activities likely to be promoted by this new policy and the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay and by when the same is likely to be announced?

BCCI dispute with ICC

1063. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the case of BCCI pending with ICC;

(b) what is Government's reaction with regard to the stand taken by the BCCI against the orof ICC; and

(c) what steps are being taken to protect the self respect of the country, the interest of our players and the game as a whole?

NEW DELHI;
The 26th February, 2002
Phalguna 7, 1923 (Saka)

R.C. TRIPATHI,
Secretary-General.

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

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